

THE TIMES

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THURSDAY JULY 25 1996

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TOP JOBS SECTION 3

Smoking parents are blamed for two thirds of cot deaths

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS who smoke could be responsible for up to two-thirds of cot deaths, researchers have found.

A study at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Bristol, which has produced the first evidence of the scale of the danger to babies, shows a baby's risk of cot death doubles for each hour a day it spends in a room where people smoke. The findings, to be published in the

British Medical Journal on Saturday, are the first to show that exposing a baby to tobacco smoke after birth is as dangerous as smoking by the mother in pregnancy. They say cot deaths could be reduced by almost two thirds, saving the lives of 300 infants a year, if parents stopped smoking.

Peter Fleming, professor of infant health and developmental physiology at the hospital and author of the study, said: "We were astonished by the strength of the association. The message is that it is

as anti-social to smoke in a room where there are pregnant women and babies as it is to drink and drive."

Professor Fleming and colleagues studied 195 cases of cot death over two years and compared them with 780 similar babies who survived. The results showed that babies in non-smoking households had a 61 per cent reduced risk of cot death.

"Having a Dad or anyone else in the household who smokes is almost as big a risk as having a mother who smokes,"

Professor Fleming added. The findings have prompted health officials to draw up new advice on ways of reducing the risk. Since a 1991 campaign by the Department of Health and the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, the number of infants dying in sudden unexplained circumstances has fallen by half from more than 1,000 to 53 in 1994.

Parents have been advised to lay babies on their backs to sleep with their feet touching the end of the cot, not to smoke and to ensure infants are not

wearing too many clothes or covered by too many blankets. However, for the past two years the number of deaths has remained constant at ten a week with babies aged two to three months at greatest risk.

Today, the health department and the foundation will publish a revised leaflet highlighting the importance of a smoke-free zone, particularly in the baby's sleeping place.

It will come on the same day as the 1994 annual report of *Confidential Inquiry* into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy is published, showing current advice is broadly correct, but not being acted upon by those most at risk.

Joyce Epstein, secretary-general of Foundation, said the new leaflet built on the strengths of original campaigns. "We are pleased to be launching it on the same day as these important new findings. Parents must have clear advice led by research and this leaflet is based on the latest and most comprehensive cot death research in the country."

Blair rallies his MPs to save Harman

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

HARRIET HARMAN was re-elected to the Shadow Cabinet last night in a vote that underlined Tony Blair's unshakable grip on his party.

The Shadow Health Secretary, under fire for months over her decision to send her son to a grammar school, improved her vote from last year, but finished bottom of the list of those elected to the 19-strong body.

In another filip for Mr Blair, Jack Cunningham — his clear choice to fill the one vacancy in the Shadow Cabinet left by a retiring member — was easily elected with 190 votes. Ms Harman polled 145 votes. Ms Harman finished 19th; last year she came 18th with 108 votes.

While many MPs have not forgiven Ms Harman for going against party policy over her son's education, they voted for her reluctantly because they were left in no doubt that Mr Blair wanted her to remain in his top team.

The result was yet another example of the leader's total sway over his party on a day when he moved to enforce discipline among his MPs, and Mr Blair declared it a "vote for unity, a vote for a winning team that will lead the fight against the Tories at the next election".

Nevertheless, the vote took place under the shadow of allegations of vote-rigging and several promising front-benchers were dissuaded from standing to limit the chances of surprises. Gerald Kaufman, who was elected 12 times and topped the poll on four

occasions, accused Mr Blair of turning the poll into a farce and said that this year's election should be the last. Writing in *The Times*, he said that Labour leaders should be allowed to appoint their own team. "It is time this comedy was ended."

Mr Blair had earlier turned on those who suggested the elections had been rigged when he used his end-of-term address to the Parliamentary Labour Party to tell MPs that there was no room for "individual self-indulgence" in the run-up to the general election.

He also warned MPs against writing newspaper articles critical of the leadership or party policies, saying: "Self-indulgence will mean internal division and confusion among both our party members and the electorate. It is unity and single-mindedness which we must adopt between now and the election."

But almost immediately, the tensions within the leadership were exposed when Clare Short walked out of a television interview after being asked about the Tube strike.

The Shadow Transport Secretary told the interviewer from BBC1's regional news programme *Newroom South East*: "I don't wish to talk about it, thank you" before unhooking her microphone and refusing to continue.

Ms Short, who had appeared to answer questions about the Commons debate on the Central Railway line, claimed that the dispute had not been part of the agreement

Gerald Kaufman, page 16



Harriet Harman yesterday: she was 19th in the Shadow Cabinet election

Why I won't bow to the Right on EMU — Major

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Prime Minister last night demolished the remaining hopes of the Tory Right that he will shift his stance on the European single currency, saying that to rule out British participation now would be a dereliction of responsibility.

In an interview with *The Times*, John Major brushed aside David Heathcoat-Amory's resignation on the issue, reiterated his tax-cutting ambitions and repeatedly voiced confidence that he would recover from his lowly position in the opinion polls to win the next general election.

Tony Blair would not become Prime Minister, he said; Labour was very nervous and panicked when anything went wrong. "They panic in spades, and between now and the next election a lot of things are going to go wrong for them. They are certainly going wrong for them on education, on strikes and on Europe."

But when it came to his own

party's problems over Europe, Mr Major was in no mood to budge. He said that Mr Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned as Paymaster-General so that he could publish a pamphlet on the single currency, would restate the arguments — but they would not be fresh arguments. The position was clear and it was not going to change.

Whether Britain went in or not, it was the most important economic decision that Europe and this country would take for many years. "Since it is going to affect this country I want to be in there negotiating precisely what happens up until the last moment."

"How could I defend to the City of London, British business, British industry — quite apart from the British individual — that I was going to say, on the most important economic issue for 50 years or more, 'I am going to withdraw from the debate now and let

Continued on page 2, col 4

Hill 'to be sacked by Williams team'

By OLIVER HOLT

DAMON HILL may be about to follow in the footsteps of Nigel Mansell by bringing the Formula One world drivers' championship to Britain and by being discarded by his employer, Frank Williams.

Yesterday, the rumours intensified when it was reported that the "Englishman" who leads the championship by 15 points, will be replaced next

season by Heinz-Harald Frentzen, a German driver who has never finished higher than third in 42 starts.

Hill's performances in this year's Williams-Renault, in which he has won six of the ten races so far, have been so commanding that the whispers about Williams searching for a replacement were stilled for a while. Hill felt confident enough to talk about a salary demand of £12 million for next year, after his contract with Williams expires.

But a source "close to the Williams team", says in today's *Autosport*, said that the deal with Frentzen was struck within the last month. "I think it is wrong that a guy like Hill goes in there and gives his all and then his career, and his emotions are treated in this way."

Williams denied there was any truth in the reports and Michael Breen, Hill's manager, pouted scorn on the story.

Hill's future fears, page 44

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Catholic paper launches attack on the Queen

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's leading Roman Catholic newspapers tomorrow publishes a strong attack on the monarchy, singling out the Queen for particular criticism.

William Oddie, a former Anglican priest who converted to Catholicism, writing in tomorrow's *Catholic Herald*, questions whether Catholic loyalty can be sustained "in present conditions". He says the Queen has openly abandoned the belief that marriage is indissoluble by enforcing the divorce of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

In so doing, he says, has endangered traditional family life "at precisely the juncture at which it stands in most peril". Referring to the Queen's refusal to accept the marriage of her sister to a divorcee, he says: "Unlike Princess Margaret four decades ago, she is no longer mindful of the teachings of the Church."

Lord St John of Fawsley, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, dismissed Mr Oddie's comments as "a ridiculous farce of nonsense".

He said: "Speaking as a Catholic and from personal experience, I can say that Her Majesty has the greatest respect and admiration for her Catholic subjects and throughout this wretched business of

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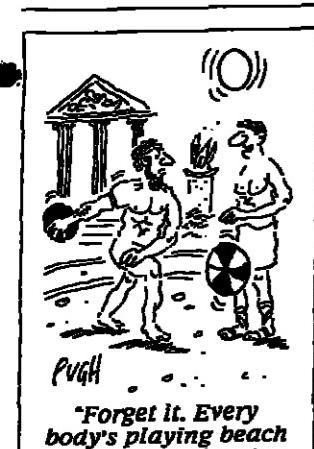
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For the life you don't yet know

Inquiry launched into RUC tactics during riots

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
AND AUDREY MAGEE

AN INQUIRY into police use of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland is to be launched in the wake of violent clashes during recent loyalist marches. Police training and their handling of street violence will be examined in a wide-ranging review.

About 6,000 plastic baton rounds were fired during troubles across the Province but Sir Hugh Annesley, the RUC Chief Constable, has defended the action of his officers in the face of petrol bomb attacks and assaults.

The Inspector of Constabulary will

publish a report into RUC standards later this year. Although ministers said the review is in response to earlier pressure for an investigation of police practice, they acknowledge that the latest violence has emphasised the need for a comprehensive examination of the police role.

The announcement came as Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, gave details of a review of marches and parades in Northern Ireland. The roles of the Chief Constable and ministers will be examined and public order laws could be changed if the review finds weaknesses in the system. Sir Patrick

has yet to announce the names of those on the inquiry, which is expected to be completed by January.

Ministers hope the announcement of the reviews and a speeding up of the Northern Ireland talks will help ease tensions in the run-up to next month's marching season. However, David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, says in *The Times* today that the peace process was killed off by IRA bombings and that fringe parties should be sidelined. "Confidence and stability can be restored," he says. "While the peace process is dead, the political process can be rebuilt. It may not produce a solution

satisfactory to the extremes but that was never possible. The talks should be refocused on the constitutional parties and on what is achievable."

The Labour party has drawn up a three-point plan to organise Protestant marches through Catholic areas to help avoid a repeat of the five-day Portadown stand-off earlier this month. Mo Mowlam, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said a code of practice for marches should be established outlining routes.

Ms Mowlam, in Dublin yesterday to meet Irish Government ministers and opposition leaders, said there should be guidelines on the parades

to ensure the routing is fair and consistent and acceptable to both communities. She called for urgent agreement in Londonderry over the disputed route of next month's loyalist Apprentice Boys' march.

□ A £40m industrial investment package has been postponed because of the recent riots. An estimated 1,000 jobs would have been created if a plan to build a high-tech spinning machine factory had gone ahead. However, its Arab backers, who had pledged to spend £20 million on the plant, have put the project on hold.

David Trimble, page 16

Hogg tightens up sheep slaughter to calm BSE fear

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AND ALICE THOMSON



STRICTER controls on the slaughter of sheep were announced yesterday by the Government in an attempt to reassure consumers that British lamb is safe.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, told MPs he was proposing that the heads of all sheep and goats should be removed at slaughter and destroyed, as is already the case with cattle.

The minister said this was a precautionary measure to protect the public against a "theoretical risk" that BSE might have passed to sheep and goats and be present as a new form of scrapie, a brain disease previously regarded as no risk to humans.

Mr Hogg later announced a new compensation package to help beef and dairy farmers affected by the BSE crisis.

He told the Commons that he did not intend to stop eating lamb cutlets because they were "a splendid product". The Prime Minister said he, too, would continue to eat lamb chops. Despite the reassurance, sheep prices were about 15 per cent down on last week's level at more than 40 livestock markets across the country. Wholesalers were reported to have cancelled or-

ders for lamb in expectation of lower demand from shoppers.

Mr Hogg said that the Government was consulting with European Union partners on whether other offal from sheep, goat and deer should be removed from the animal and human food chain. It was also commissioning more research into the possible transmission of BSE to sheep. "These steps are being taken out of an abundance of caution. There is no direct threat to human health. This is intended to reassure people, not concern them," Mr Hogg said.

More than 95 per cent of the

19 million sheep slaughtered each year already have their heads removed at the abattoir and sheep brain is not eaten in Britain except by some Muslim communities. Sheep's head soup is a traditional dish in the Outer Hebrides.

There are 84,000 goats in Britain, mainly reared for their milk, and hair, but a small market for goat meat has developed. Ruth Goodwin, scientific officer of the British Goat Society, said: "Heads are not usually eaten. But we have just begun to get goat meat off the ground in this country and this suggestion that BSE might get into goats is the last thing we need to hear."

Tory backbenchers accused the Government of creating a "mad sheep" scare for no good reason. Euro-sceptic MPs blamed Brussels for "unnecessary meddling", saying that the French, as the main eaters of sheep brain, were the only ones with reason to worry.

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The committee said that if BSE had got into sheep, then both brain and spinal cord could pose a potential risk to human health if eaten.

The new compensation package announced by Mr Hogg will include £29 million to beef farmers who were forced to sell cattle between March 20 and June 30 at a loss because of the slump in demand and prices. The minister also proposed reimbursing farmers for 90 per cent of the cost of replacing cattle they lose under the accelerated cull of dairy cattle, due to start in the late autumn.

Leading article, page 17

IT IS estimated that European Union farm incomes will be down £1.68 billion next year as a result of the BSE crisis (Michael Hornsby writes). This is a fall of 3.6 per cent compared with 1995, the last full year before the crisis began.

The fall will wipe out much of the 4.6 per cent rise in earnings between 1994 and 1995.

Tony Houghton, director of Product Studies Group, an agricultural consultancy, said: "The drop in beef sales will be offset to some extent by increased demand and prices for other meats, but we esti-

mate there will still be a substantial net loss."

The impact of BSE will cut EU beef consumption by 700,000 tonnes a year by 2000, reducing the amount eaten by 8.9 per cent from the 1995 level, the group says.

Consumption of other meats will rise by a roughly equivalent amount, with pigmeat accounting for 66 per cent of the increase, poultry meat for 29 per cent and sheepmeat for 5 per cent.

Prices of these meats will rise too, but not enough to offset the decline in beef income.

Leading article, page 17

Reform of EU fisheries urged

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY,
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

AN INDEPENDENT group of experts set up by the Government called yesterday for a radical overhaul of the European Union's common fisheries policy but said withdrawal would not be in British fishermen's interests.

The report, which will disappoint Euro-sceptic Tory MPs and the more militant fishing organisations, says that Britain would be unlikely to get a better deal outside the

policy. Welcoming the report, Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, said: "The group confirms that withdrawal from the CFP [common fisheries policy] would not be a sensible course of action."

"It recommends unequivocally that the interests of the UK fisheries sector are best served within the CFP and by making efforts to secure improvements. I wholeheartedly agree with this assessment."

John Goodland, vice-president of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation and chairman of the group, said: "We

are advocating reform, not retreat from the CFP. The CFP provides the legal and institutional framework in which our objectives can best be achieved, in co-operation with other countries which share an interest in the European fish stocks."

The group says the Government should concentrate on ending "quota-hopping" — the practice whereby foreign-owned vessels register in Britain to get a share of the British fish catch — and on reducing over-fishing of already dangerously depleted stocks.

Major interview, page 15

Continued from page 1
ideas: the improving education and health systems, lower taxes, greater security, greater opportunity in business, the conviction that the country was becoming stronger and a better place to live. Those things gave people the optimism to say to themselves "I live in this country and stand goodness I do because there is nowhere better to be."

Britain was becoming a great success but that did not seem to be evident to fashionable opinion, he said. "When it is clear to people that Britain is winning... I think you will see the change of opinion that is already beginning to accelerate quite dramatically."

Mr Major backed the Chancellor's cautious line on tax cuts in November, although he repeated his ultimate objective of a 20p basic rate of income tax. I don't know how long it will take us to get there but that is our objective," he said. "It is clear cut."

Major interview, page 15

Continued from page 1
have always had to work harder than anyone else to prove their loyalty to the British state".

He says, however, that Catholics have remained loyal, despite the supposedly "glorious revolution" that swept away a Catholic monarchy and despite the present monarchy, "which defines itself from time to time by acts of petty anti-Catholic spite, like forbidding Prince Charles to attend the Pope's Mass during a visit to Rome a decade ago".

While Catholics have endured such insults before, he says, "the present conduct of the House of Windsor prompts a question which needs to be given careful attention by English, Welsh and Scottish Catholics. Quite simply, the question is this: can Catholic loyalty to the Crown be sustained in present conditions?"

Mr Oddie says he is not questioning the suitability of

the Prince of Wales to head the Church of England. "No: what the House of Windsor has now embarked upon is more serious than any actual morality. What we are witnessing is an exercise in damage limitation in which the first casualties have been certain Christian principles, of which until now the Queen was the most notable defender."

Referring to the Queen's

role in the Royal divorce, Mr Oddie says: "The monarchy, in the person of the monarch herself, has become identified not with order but with instability, not with objective moral values but with secular moral relativism, not with Christian ideas of sacrifice and duty but with the quick fix and the bottom line."

The fact is that she has used her position to force divorce on a wronged wife who was anxious not to be divorced, both for the sake of her children and because she was opposed to divorce in principle, in a way we had always supposed the Queen herself to be."

The marriage breakdown of three of the Queen's children and the "cohabitation" of the fourth has transformed the Royal Family's symbolic support of the family based on marriage "into an even more powerful blow against it".

Mr Oddie adds that by removing the title of Her Royal Highness from the Prin-

cess of Wales, the Queen has "devalued motherhood". This means the Princess's role with her son, second in line to the throne, "will become that of a kind of ambulating womb and child-minder".

Mr Oddie concludes: "By removing Diana's HRH, the Queen has given royal sanction to the secularisation of Christian marriage and complicated the work of demolition wrought by her children."

Mr Coen added: "This reflects a lot of what is being said behind the scenes by Catholics of all traditions. Although I was saddened by Mr Oddie's conclusions, I felt it was a valid issue to raise. I would say we must now start to consider the question of disestablishment of the Church of England."

Major

Continued from page 1
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Major interview, page 15

Catholic paper attacks the Queen

Continued from page 1
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NEWS IN BRIEF

New trains sidelined by Railtrack red tape

New commuter trains worth £400 million remain unused while thousands of passengers travel in dilapidated "stamp door" trains from the 1950s. MPs reported yesterday. The Transport Select Committee said it was "dismayed" that Railtrack's bureaucratic procedures had prevented the new trains from being introduced on routes to Kent. The trains were ready for use on South Eastern Trains last summer but had been awaiting safety clearance from Railtrack.

The report attacked two privatisation deals that condemned hundreds of thousands of commuters to travel on slam-door trains until at least 2003. The sale of Network SouthCentral and South West Trains on seven-year leases had included no commitment to phase out the rolling stock, in spite of widespread safety worries.

Prison security delays

The Government said last night that some key measures aimed at increasing security in 135 jails in England and Wales had yet to be implemented because the Treasury was unwilling to meet the estimated £2 billion cost. It said that 95 recommendations in the Learmont report on prison security had been implemented but 32 were still under consideration or being reviewed. They included the building of a "super max" jail for the most dangerous offenders.

Police report under fire

Central Scotland Police faced criticism after its annual report failed to address complaints over its dealings with the Dunblane gunman Thomas Hamilton. In the report William Wilson, the Chief Constable, refers only to the "devastating effect" the massacre had on his officers and his budget. The force said that the report had gone to press before the Cullen inquiry into the killings highlighted the mistakes made in renewing Hamilton's gun licence.

Benefit cash victory

Five Law Lords yesterday backed Dorset County Council in its battle with the Department of Social Security, which refused to pay income support to 450 old people living in 18 retirement homes after they were taken over by a voluntary, non-profit making charity set up by the county. The council, which argued that the residents were entitled to higher level income support, will be able to reclaim the £8 million it has spent on residential care since 1991.

Stars and strips

The BP Portrait Award was won last night by James Hague, 26, from Newton, Derbyshire, who entered a self-portrait. He receives £10,000 cash and a £2,000 commission for the National Portrait Gallery. Second was Peter Andersen, 28, from Dunchurch, Warwickshire, Sadie Lee, who paints female nudes, won the BP Travel Award and will visit a school for striptease dancers run by the Burlesque Historical Society in Helenwood, California.

Ex-editor finds a home

Andrew Jaspan, the former editor of *The Observer*, has joined *The Big Issue*, the magazine for homeless people. Mr Jaspan, 44, was yesterday appointed managing director and publisher of the magazine, which sells 300,000 copies a week. Since being dismissed from *The Observer* in March, Mr Jaspan said he had considered various approaches but none had matched the challenge of *The Big Issue*.

A fare day's work for the London cabbie sent to Dundee

By DIANA THORP
AND ADRIAN LEE

A LONDON cabbie was the envy of his colleagues yesterday after collecting a stranded woman from Waterloo station. He took her to Dundee.

Taxi drivers said they believed that the £884 round-trip of more than 800 miles was a British record. One added: "The guy next in line must be feeling sick."

The fare was paid by South West Trains after Janette Duck, a research technician, missed her connecting coach to Newburgh.

A flight from London to Dundee would have cost £167. The train

between Dundee and Perth, after a train breakdown on Monday. An official agreed that the company would meet the cost of a taxi and called a black cab.

The journey took nine hours, via the M1, M6, A74, M80 and A9. On the way, the driver, David Wright, bought breakfast for his passenger. Miss Duck, 35, said: "I think his heart was sore from gritting. I would have been happy to stay in a hotel and fly home next day, so I was amazed when the train company took that option."

A flight from London to Dundee would have cost £167. The train

company described the circumstances as exceptional and a matter for the managers' discretion. A spokesman for South West Trains said: "We have told our staff to do everything they can to help passengers on our trains. There may have been other ways to get her home, but the decision was taken on the spot. We're pleased to have been able to help this lady."

The official would not be reprimanded, although the spokesman said: "Somebody else might have made a different decision." Miss Duck's train from Portsmouth had

miles from London, due to an electrical fault. She had been visiting her parents, Grace and Peter, of Gosport, Hampshire, to celebrate her father's 80th birthday.

Mr Wright, of Romford, Essex, a taxi driver for three years, asked Miss Duck to take a picture of him standing by the Newburgh town sign and another of the meter, showing the £884 fare. He said that colleagues would not believe him otherwise. His wife, Sadie, said: "He rang me at one in the morning to say he would not be able to look after our son the next morning."

Some of the fare will go towards a

holiday in Cornwall. "We are driving down in his cab. After this, he said it would be a double."

Phil Warren, a third-generation taxi driver and author of *Steering Wheel*, a monthly newspaper for cabbies, said: "Long-distance fares are not unusual but I've never heard of one this far. On August Bank Holiday 1960, I took a chap from Bayswater to Fishguard, in West Wales. He was meant to be meeting his family off the ferry and, without going into detail, he had been a bit of a naughty boy and missed his train. The passengers later sealed a £4.5 million deal.

According to the *Guinness Book of Records*, the longest taxi drive was in 1991, when two Finns made a 14,413-mile round-trip to Spain. It cost them £9,000.

letter with a £5 note." The fare was £28.

The reaction yesterday on the Waterloo taxi rank was one of amazement, although some said they had taken customers to Liverpool (£30) and Norwich (£10). One driver reportedly drove four business men from Heathrow to Brussels for £600 after they missed a flight. The passengers later sealed a £4.5 million deal.

According to the *Guinness Book of Records*, the longest taxi drive was in 1991, when two Finns made a 14,413-mile round-trip to Spain. It cost them £9,000.

Judge defends action in PC sex assault case

By KATE ALDERSON

THE judge who was urged to resign after he said a policeman charged with indecent assault deserved no more than a "sound ticking-off" took the unusual step of responding to criticism yesterday by issuing a statement in court.

Judge McCallum said he was astonished by the reaction to the case in Bradford Crown Court when PC Robert Bridle of West Yorkshire Police was cleared of four indecent assault charges.

The judge said: "I am surprised at the way in which the case *R v Robert C. Bridle* has been reported. I am astonished that a retired police-woman, who was on the witness list and who therefore was not in court to hear any evidence, should give a press conference outside the court minutes after the case ended."

If the press relied upon her comments it is perhaps understandable why some of the reports are as they appear. But that is little comfort to those who would prefer the facts."

The judge was referring to Lynne Tolson, a former detective chief inspector; who had investigated the allegations made against PC Bridle, who is married and lives in Cleckheaton, west Yorkshire. After the hearing she described the judge's comments as "biased, crass, prejudicial and outdated".

The judge had instructed the jury to return not guilty verdicts on all charges, including one in which PC Bridle was accused of feeling a WPC's breasts. Ms Tolson told the press: "The message could rightly be concluded as 'Join Britain's modern police service, girls — and get your tits groped'."

Yesterday the judge issued his comments to the court to put on record "the facts". He pointed out that he had said: "In this case there is now

evidence that a fair degree of horseplay took place during canteen breaks between officers of both sexes, and clear evidence that some of the language used and nicknames given would possibly offend if it were not used in the context of the very close camaraderie we heard of on Shift Rota 3."

"They were obviously a good, cohesive unit who even used to socialise out of hours, and a good deal of banter became an acceptable form of relieving boredom or tension. You may think that is fairly normal amongst professionals performing a stressful job."

The judge drew particular criticism when he said to the prosecution on Monday: "If a person behaves in that way, if the complainant doesn't want the matter to come to court, the appropriate way of dealing with him is for his superior officer to give him a sound ticking-off and make sure he doesn't behave in a way which most people find unacceptable."

PC Bridle, 41, who denied the charges, had told investigators some allegations related to incidents that had no sexual connotations.

West Yorkshire Police said it would continue to "robustly pursue" other action against the officer, who has been suspended for almost two years.

Judge McCallum was at work again yesterday at Bradford Crown Court, presiding over another indecent assault case. He told David Warner, a paedophile, that he could expect a long term behind bars for indecently assaulting a girl aged seven.

The judge adjourned sentence in order to hear how the girl had been affected by the series of assaults. "Very often in these sort of cases the one person who is not considered is the victim," he said. "I would like to know just what her state is."



Mike Atherton, at the High Court, plays Pakistan today "if you'll let me get away"

Imran heaps praise on 'better than me' Botham

By TOM JONES

IMRAN KHAN told the High Court yesterday that the only person he had ever accused of cheating at cricket was himself. He denied branding Ian Botham and his England team colleagues Alain Lamb as being low-class or racist.

Looking directly past Botham and at the five-jury, the former captain of Pakistan paid glowing tribute to his opponent. Botham, he said, had possessed a natural and tremendous ability and had been better even than him.

Botham and Lamb are suing Imran over "an offensive personal attack" on them in India Today magazine which called them racist, uneducated and lacking in class and

upbringing. Botham alone is suing over a report in *The Sun* which he says accused him of ball-tampering.

Asked by his counsel, George Camm, QC, about the Sun article and whether he ever intended to accuse Botham of cheating, Imran said: "Sir, never and never again. I specifically did not have Ian in mind because he's not a seam bowler, he's a swing bowler."

Imran said he decided to enter the ball-tampering controversy after the "unsavoury" Pakistan tour of England in 1992. The whole series was about cheating.

He said it had been a great disappointment when Lamb and Botham spoke out against him in the tabloid press after he had confessed to using a bottle-top to tamper

with a ball during a 1981 county match.

Imran said he had been misquoted in an unauthorised biography and the wrong impression given about his opinions of Botham and Lamb. As a result, he said, he had written to both men apologising for any hurt caused to them.

Earlier Mike Atherton, the England captain, agreed he had written in his book that there was nothing new in players trying to alter the condition of the ball and said they had been picking the seam "for donkeys' years".

Asked by Mr Camm on the eve of the series against Pakistan how many Tests he had played, Atherton replied: "Fifty eight so far — and 59 if you will let me get away."

The case continues.

ANDRE CAMARA

Victim to conceal rape from parents

By JOANNA BALE

A JAPANESE student faces a lifetime of silent suffering in her home country after six youths held her prisoner for two days in south London and repeatedly raped her. The youths, aged between 15 and 21, are awaiting sentence after being convicted at the Old Bailey.

Their 20-year-old victim is so ashamed of what they did to her that she cannot tell her well-to-do Japanese parents because she is afraid of the effect it could have on them, the court was told yesterday. Suicides are not uncommon in Japanese families where women have been sexually violated, so the student, whose parents paid for her to come to England to study English and British culture, has decided to keep secret her ordeal.

The judge ordered pre-sentence reports on their attackers in view of their ages "and the seriousness of the offences".

The victim was "new to the English language, new to London and utterly at a loss when faced with these men", said Louise Kamill, for the prosecution. "She was from a different culture. She was so overcome with shame when rescued by police, it took two days for her to make a statement."

The tall, slim girl faced lengthy court proceedings in which she had to relive her experiences. She spent 31 hours giving evidence and being cross-examined over 12 days in the witness box.

Yesterday the victim of the 1986 Ealing vicarage rape said that it was an outrage that the victim had to spend so long in the witness box.

Jill Saward said: "I really think the defence barristers could have got together to decide what questions they were going to ask. Instead they must have been going over the same points again and again because one of the barristers was going 'That wasn't my client, it was somebody else'."

Steven, from Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, was found by a passer-by and identified by his grandfather, George Lane. Mr Lane, from Tewkesbury, Northamptonshire, thought his daughter, a single mother, had gone to Bournemouth with her son for a short holiday.



Mother of abandoned boy calls the police

By JOANNA BALE

A MOTHER who abandoned her four-year-old son under a bush in Bournemouth telephoned police yesterday but hung up without revealing her intentions or whereabouts.

Jill Lane contacted an incident room where her son, Steven, was found asleep in the grounds of a community centre on Monday night. The 23-year-old was recently investigated by Hertfordshire social services after they were contacted by neighbours who had heard the boy crying, but no action was taken.

In a tense conversation with a police officer lasting a few minutes, a softly-spoken but distraught woman said she was Steven's mother. She asked how he was and was told he was safe and in good health.

A police spokesman said: "She was told that we would like her to come forward and be reunited with her son. Unfortunately, after a long pause she hung up. We think she was calling long distance from the number of coins she put into the telephone box."

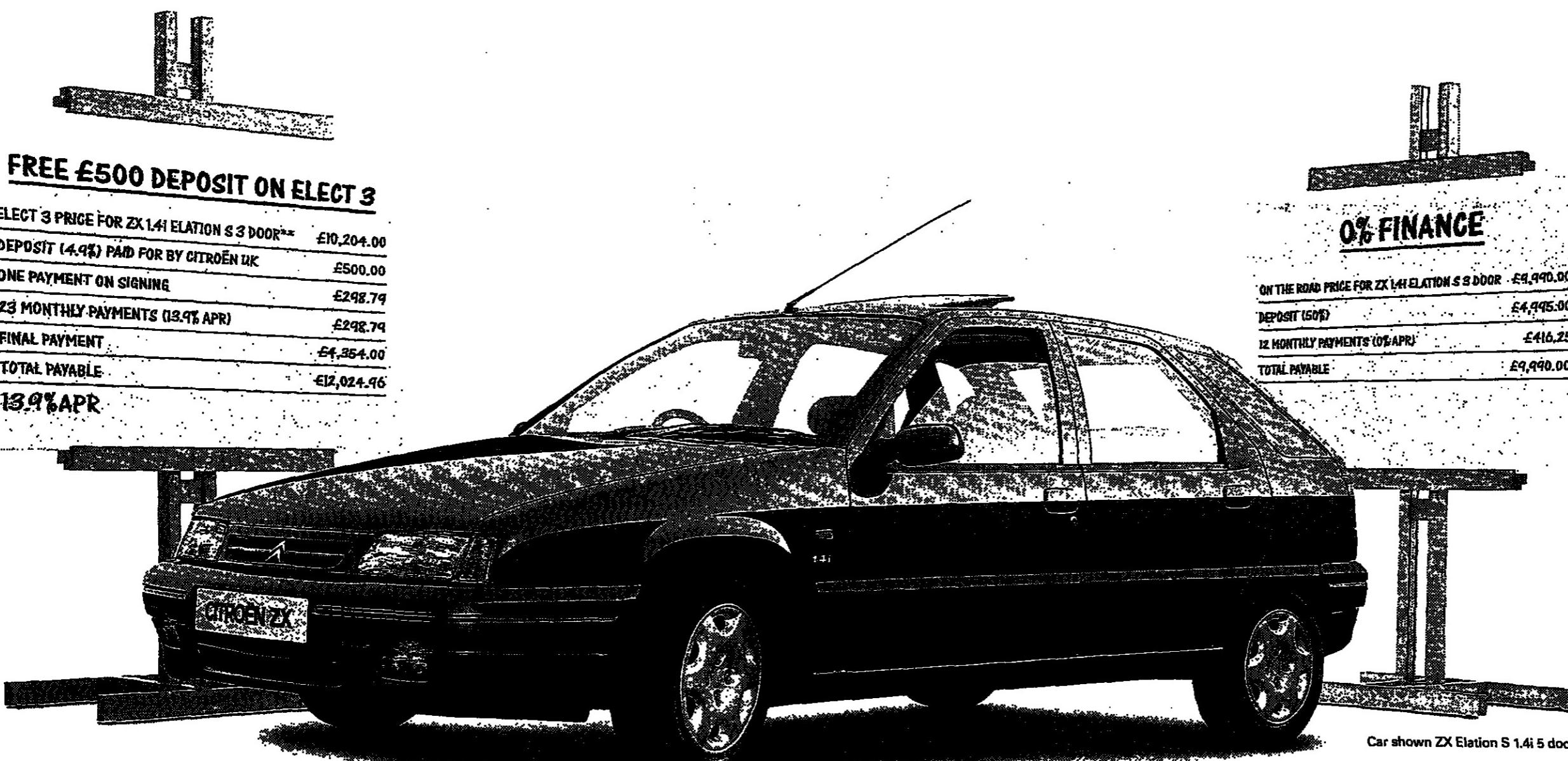
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Judge McCallum was astonished by reaction



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Panorama interview is seen as key factor in the demise of 'special relationship'

Queen ends BBC monopoly on her Christmas speech

BY CAROL MIDDLETON

BUCKINGHAM Palace ended 63 years of tradition yesterday by abolishing the BBC's exclusive rights to make the Queen's Christmas message, in a move widely interpreted as retaliation for the *Panorama* interview with the Prince of Wales.

Although both Buckingham Palace and the corporation denied a rift, the BBC's diplomatic correspondent Paul Reynolds described the decision as a direct response to the *Panorama* programme last November and said it marked the end of the special relationship between the two institutions.

From Christmas 1997, ITV will produce the broadcast, which is transmitted throughout the Commonwealth on Christmas Day, for two years, and the BBC will be responsible for the following two years. This year's broadcast will be produced by the BBC because work has already begun.

A statement from Charles Anson, the Queen's press secretary, said the arrangement was being reviewed in early 1995, well before the *Panorama* broadcast. A spokesman added: "We have been considering a change to involve the ITV network as well as the

BBC for some time, so that the arrangements reflect the composition of the television and radio industries today."

Producing the Christmas message costs about £100,000, although some of the expense is recouped through distribution throughout Commonwealth countries.

A BBC spokeswoman said:

"We have been assured that the decision was not taken because of *Panorama*. However relations have been put under strain by the interview, which was recorded in secrecy at Kensington Palace. The Princess of Wales talked of her marriage break-up and questioned the Prince's suitability to be king."

Palace officials were unhappy at the way the BBC secured the interview and the small amount of notice it was given.

Yesterday on BBC news, Mr Reynolds agreed that the Palace was reviewing the BBC's rights before last November. But he added: "It was not denied to me this morning that the *Panorama* interview had not had a decisive effect on the results of that review."

"I think it is a direct response by the Palace to the *Panorama* interview. I don't say it

wouldn't have happened eventually but it has happened sooner rather than later."

He added that the special relationship was drawing to a close. "Both the Palace and the BBC are undergoing tremendous changes as they try to respond to the outside world and they are having difficulty responding to each other in the old cosy way. The *Panorama* interview threw that into sharp and vivid perspective."

The first Christmas Day broadcast was made in 1932 when George V addressed the Empire on the wireless from a small office at Sandringham with the now famous words: "I speak now from my home and from my heart to you all."

Like her father and grandfather, the Queen broadcast her early radio messages live and from 1957 also did so for television.

Since 1960 the broadcasts have been pre-recorded — often incorporating material recorded during the year — to allow the film (now video tape) to be sent in advance to Commonwealth countries.

The Palace spokesman said:

"ITV would 'not necessarily' change the format of the broadcast but added: "We are

always looking at ways of

increasing the relevance of the broadcast and its presentation. No doubt the ITV network and ITN in particular have their own ideas to submit to the Palace."

The BBC has traditionally borne the cost of not only making the programme — which has always been made available to ITV and commercial radio stations in Britain — but also of distributing it

throughout the Commonwealth. In future the cost will be met by the network producing it at the time.

The spokesman said there

had been close consultations with both the BBC and ITV while the changes were considered, and the Queen had also been consulted.

ITV hailed the decision as a coup for its news team.

Marcus Plantin, network di-

rector, said: "I am delighted that ITV has been given the opportunity to participate in this annual broadcast which is so much part of the Christmas tradition in Britain and the Commonwealth."

Independent Radio News will be responsible for the radio broadcast.

Two women who were

struck by lightning at a Buck-

ingham Palace garden party

are to remain at St Thomas's Hospital for another 24 hours for tests on their hearts.

The women, aged 45 and 55,

suffered burns when they

were sheltering from the

storm under a plane tree in the

palace gardens on Tuesday.

The Queen is being kept

informed of their condition

and is said to be planning to

invite them to another party next year.

RAF man tells how mugger shot him

BY RICHARD DUKE

AN RAF officer said yesterday that he took a "calculated risk" in trying to disarm a mugger. Wing Commander Peter Drisell, 40, was shot four times and the bullets are lodged in his body more than a year later.

At the Old Bailey yesterday, he said he was confronted by two men demanding money in May last year as he walked home in south London. He decided to tackle the gunman after a woman passerby shouted "Leave him alone or I will call the police". The officer told the jury: "The gunman turned, hesitated for a second and then fired a round down the street. If I was going to make any attempt to take the gun, that was as good a time as any. I thought I would take a calculated risk."

"It was quite a stretch but I went for him. I touched the gun and got near him, but it was easy for him to take the gun further back. Then he shot me."

Four teams of surgeons operated on the officer. He was hit in the arm, chest, stomach and back. One bullet passed through his wallet, which was shown to the jury.

It is alleged that the shooting was one of a series of violent attacks by Richard Humphrey of Brixton, south London, who denies murder, two attempted murders, robbery and illegal possession of firearms. The trial continues today.

Princess transfers PR burden to secretaries

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE Princess of Wales will meet the remaining members of her staff at St James's Palace today to discuss the resignation of Jane Atkinson, her public relations adviser.

The Princess, who returned from holiday in the South of France last night, is confident that three secretaries will be able to deal with media inquiries. Angela Hordern, Victoria Mendham and Caroline MacMillan, known as 'lady clerks', are employed to open the Princess's correspondence and to plan her diary.

Mrs Hordern, the Princess's personal secretary, is a former Downing Street clerk who accompanied her to Chicago in June. Miss Mendham, the Princess's personal assistant, has worked at St James's Palace for eight years and has joined the Princess on holidays to Colorado and the Caribbean.

The Princess, who will discuss her future plans with officials from Buckingham Palace over the next few days, also relies on Anthony Julius, the lawyer who handled her divorce, for advice. "The Prin-



Atkinson: planning a holiday in France

cess will consult the Palace over any immediate practical problems, but they won't be falling over backwards to get involved with her again," one royal source said.

Mrs Atkinson is planning a holiday in the Dordogne with her husband George, an advertising executive, and their children Caroline, 11, and Nicholas, 15.

Her resignation on Tues-

day came after a series of disagreements with the Prin-



The Queen making her first Christmas broadcast on the radio in 1952. Until 1960 her words were transmitted live.

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INVESTMENTS

PC Stephen Jeffries

An article headed "Court saves couple from perpetual pop music" (August 14, 1995) reported that after eight years of playing almost non-stop pop music, PC Stephen Jeffries had been served with a noise abatement notice. In fact, although there was a long-standing dispute about noise between Mr Jeffries and his neighbours, the notice related to only one incident in February 1995. The terms of the notice were also incorrectly reported and should have stated that the Jeffries family were not to play loud amplified music so as to disturb their neighbours between the hours of 11pm and 7am. The article also incorrectly reported the dates when the parties moved to their respective homes. In fact, the Jeffries moved in 1980; the neighbours did not do so until six years later. We apologise to Mr Jeffries and his family for any embarrassment caused by these errors.

Amschel Rothschild

A report (July 22) about the death of Amschel Rothschild stated that he was naked when found. We are glad to make clear, as the French police report confirms, that he was in fact fully clothed.

Dr Ray Bhatt

Dr Ray Bhatt, whose case for unfair and wrongful dismissal by Chelsea and Westminster Hospital is being heard by an industrial tribunal, is not alleging racism by the hospital authorities as incorrectly reported on July 22.

make an emergency landing. Inspectors found each engine had only 1.5 litres of oil, although they had been filled with 17 shortly before. The crew are praised in the report for their prompt and professional action in averting a disaster.

Inspectors were called in because the incident followed a series of complaints about declining standards of maintenance and growing concern about commercial pressures on engineers.

Among the more notable examples was the pilot of a British Airways jet who was sucked out of the cockpit window when the wrong size rivets were used to replace the frame.

The pilot, by the Transport Department's air accident investigation branch, will be sharply critical of British Midland and the Civil Aviation Authority, which is bringing the charges.

The Boeing 737-400 had been undergoing maintenance at the airline's main base at East Midlands, which included a borescope inspection of both engines. Two maintenance engineers responsible for ensuring that the aircraft was ready for use failed to replace the cover on the gearbox sump.

As the jet climbed over Hertfordshire on February 23 last year after taking off from East Midlands airport for Lanzarote, the pilot noticed warning lights on both engines that indicated a sudden and rapid loss of oil pressure. He immediately decided to

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Major starts £100m race to give Britain a sporting chance

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND JOHN GOODBODY

LEADING sports will have their own national academies under plans announced by John Major yesterday to "revolutionise" British performance and to produce generations of world-beaters.

Dick Palmer, secretary of the British Olympic Association, said in Atlanta: "The Government has taken into account the views of many sports people. We are now happy with the arrangement."

Amid concern over Britain's lack of medals in Atlanta, Mr Palmer said that Britain had not invested in sport "for generations — we are well off the world's pace, but I think this might turn things round."

Mr Major said the academy would be the "pinnacle of a national network of centres for sporting excellence". New sports colleges would enable talented pupils to develop their skills intensively and a Sportsmark award would identify schools doing most to develop and improve sporting achievement.

Yesterday's prospectus for a 100-acre central academy represented a com-

promise, holding open the possibility of using existing facilities such as the Manchester Velodrome as centres for individual sports.

Mr Major announced that 220 sites previously owned by British Coal in the Midlands and the North of England had been secured for sporting and recreational use.

The Prime Minister said that progress had been made since he set out to reinvigorate British sport a year ago. More than half of secondary schools met the target of two hours a week of physical education for 11 to 14-year-olds, compared with barely a third two years ago. A survey last month for the Department for Education showed that in the early years of secondary school, seven out of ten pupils already met the Prime Minister's benchmark.

Mr Major said the academy



The Prime Minister told pupils yesterday: "My best schooldays were when we had cricket, soccer or rugger"

working hours to school sport. Almost all secondary schools and three quarters of primaries organised competitive sport with other schools.

Mr Major told an audience including Test cricketers, Olympic medallists and children from two inner London primary schools: "In my judg-

ment, sport is as much an important part of school life as maths, the arts and sciences."

He promised action to stop schools and colleges selling off sports pitches, and said that £300 million of National Lottery money would improve sports facilities each year: "It is an initiative that is very

close to my heart. The best days of my life at school were spent when we had some form of cricket, or soccer or rugger."

He told the children: "Any-

one who tells you schooldays are the best years of your life needs their bumps felt, except for sports facilities which I hope will

increasingly be available."

Tom Pendry, Labour spokesman on sport, welcomed the plans but added: "The parlous state of sport in this country is down to years of neglect."

Leading article, page 17

Fear breeds generation of couch potatoes

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

THE decline in school games, the increasing use of the car and fears about letting children go out alone have produced a generation of junior couch potatoes.

One experiment in which young people aged 8-16 had their activity levels measured for three days with a heart monitor on their chests found more than half the girls and a third of the boys did not experience the equivalent of a brisk ten-minute walk.

The Armed Services are finding teenage applicants so out of condition that up to 40 per cent are turned away.

Although more children than ever own bicycles, less cycling is done because parents will not allow children out on the streets. For the same reason, the proportion who walk to school has fallen by 75 per cent in 20 years. Even in the school playground youngsters are more inclined to stand chatting than to play active games.

Professor Neil Armstrong, director of the Children's Health and Exercise Research Centre, said government policy placed too much emphasis on competitive team games which most children never played after they left school.

COMPREHENSIVE education, the national curriculum and the politically correct attitudes of left-wing teachers have all been blamed for the demise of school sport. But the most serious decline can be traced to a series of pay disputes a decade ago.

The introduction of contracts specifying teachers' working hours hit many extracurricular activities. Sport was perhaps the biggest loser, with teachers refusing to supervise after-school and weekend matches. In many state schools, an anti-competitive ethos had already seen sport decline.

About 70 per cent of state schools have seen a fall in extracurricular sports in the past ten years, compared with only 14 per cent of independent schools. Some sports, such as cricket, have experienced particularly steep declines, partly through the loss of more than 5,000 playing fields in 20 years.

The extra demands on teachers' time from the national curriculum have added to pressures. A survey last year by the Secondary Heads Association found that the time devoted to physical education had dropped by 35 per cent in five years.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER PROMOTION

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The Times, in association with The Federation of Zoos, gives you the opportunity to take a child free when you spend a day at the zoo. There are 41 locations to choose from (a list was published on Saturday and Monday) where you can save up to £6. The offer is valid any day from today until August 31, with the exception of Bank Holiday Monday.

Visiting a zoo today is an exciting experience for a child. They have imaginative ways of introducing children to wild and dangerous animals. At the Lakeland Wildlife Oasis, Cumbria, for instance, they can crawl through a tunnel underneath the meerkats' sand pit to pop up, protected under a perspex dome, to meet the inquisitive creatures face to face (above). At Edinburgh the penguins stroll around the lawn amongst the visitors. And at Thrigby Hall, near Great Yarmouth, one of the favourite attractions is nearly rubbing noses with an alligator, from the safety of protective glass.

The Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland is a charity which represents the interests of 60 zoological and wildlife collections.

HOW TO APPLY
Collect four different numbered tokens from The Times, attach them to the voucher (already published) and present it at the zoo's ticket office. You will be entitled to a free child entry when paying one full adult admission. The voucher is valid for one zoo visit.



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TG

Branson dismisses result of 'toothless' lottery inquiry

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BRANSON yesterday dismissed an inquiry that rejected his allegations of attempted bribery by the American lottery contractor GTech. "We expected the report to be worthless and have not been disappointed," he said.

Mr Branson expressed amazement that Peter Davis, the National Lottery regulator, who set up the inquiry, had published the report while legal proceedings were pending. The entrepreneur is being sued for defamation and is counter-suing.

Publication called into question Mr Davis's suitability to be Director-General of Ofot. Mr Branson:

The report, released by Ofot yesterday after its findings were disclosed in *The Times*, concluded that the bribery claims could not be substantiated. Mr Branson alleged on BBC1's *Panorama* last December that Guy Snowden, chairman of GTech, had offered him a bribe to drop out of the competition to run the National Lottery. GTech owns part of Camelot, the successful bidder.

Mr Branson refused to co-operate with the inquiry, conducted by a senior QC, Anne Rafferty, and did not give evidence to it. Speaking from the Virgin Islands yesterday, he said: "It has been a toothless inquiry. We felt the right place for these matters to be heard was in court in front of a jury, publicly, where both sides can be cross-examined properly and where all witnesses can be called."

The report had merely restated Mr Snowden's written



Branson questioned the suitability of regulator

questions why it took him two years to make public his concerns about the alleged bribe attempt.

Mr Branson said the questions Ms Rafferty posed would be dealt with in front of a High Court jury later this year, when witnesses would be called and cross-examined and all documents available. "I look forward to the verdict of a British jury who will have had the chance of hearing both sides of the story."

Although his lawyers could have sought an injunction to stop publication of the report, it had taken matters "no further" because they would have been pointless.

A Virgin statement said that Mr Branson had always welcomed an inquiry but had wanted it to be public and independent, with the arbiter appointed independently of Ofot and the Department of National Heritage.

GTech said yesterday: "We are pleased that the Rafferty report has been published and we welcome its conclusions. We are unable to comment further due to the legal case."

A BANKER has taken legal action to stop his neighbour watering hanging flower baskets in his back drive.

Philip Townsend issued a writ against Samantha Chilcraft-Clarke, who lives next to his 17th-century house, Wood Dalling Hall, near Reepham in Norfolk. Although Ms Chilcraft-Clarke, 25, has rights of access on Mr Townsend's rear drive, which runs past her front door, he claims she has trespassed by parking on the drive instead of her carport, allowing her five-year-old son to play there, using the road to water her hanging baskets and chatting to neighbours. His family rarely use the drive, preferring the front entrance.

The writ is also seeking compensation for damage to a 3ft bush which Ms Chilcraft-Clarke cut down, claiming it was dead.

Mr Townsend moved into the £350,000 former hotel six years ago. A regular member of the congregation at St Andrew's Church in the village and treasurer of the parochial council, he lives in London during the week,

returning only at weekends.

Ms Chilcraft-Clarke said the dispute began the day she moved into her new £39,950 home last November.

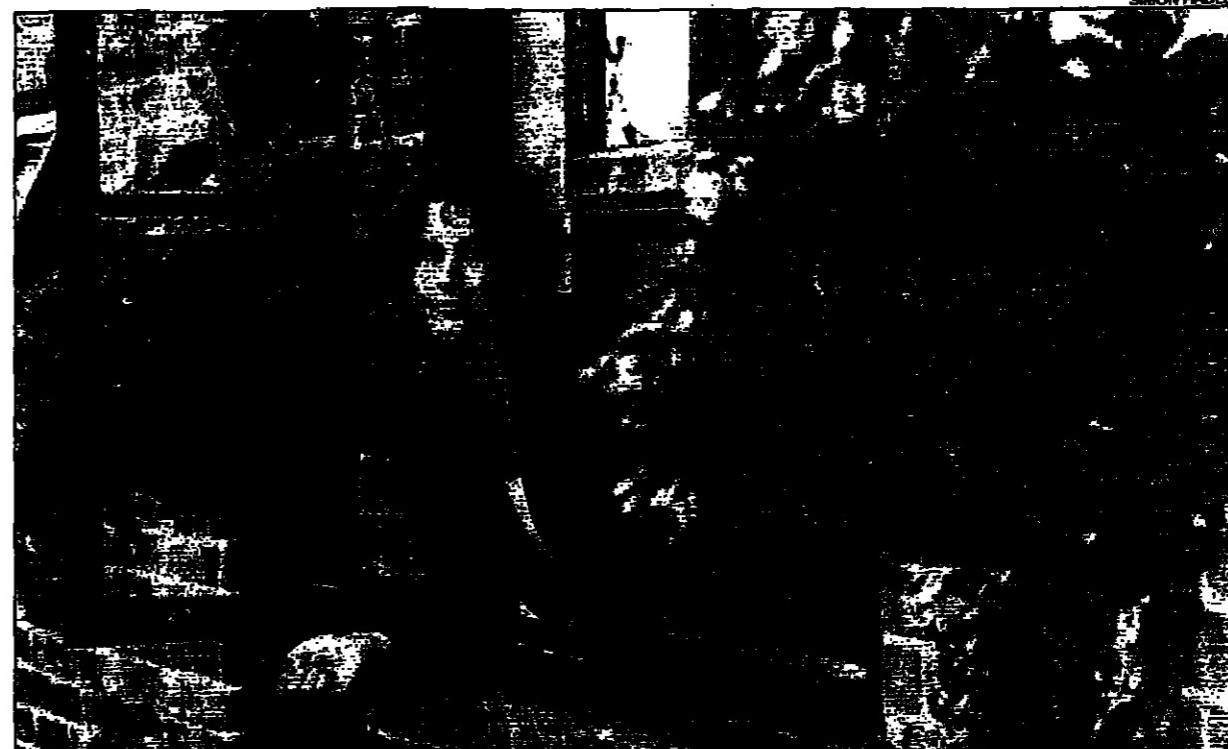
"Marianne Townsend came up and told us we were not supposed to be parking there, but said she would let us on that one occasion," she said.

"I went along with what she said, but then I later parked on the driveway again to vacuum my car out because the extension lead would not

reach to the back. Marianne approached me and I told her to go away if she was not going to bring joy and happiness into my life. She then told me I was going to get a solicitor's letter."

Ms Chilcraft-Clarke insists she has no intention of taking down the five hanging baskets, although she fears the legal costs may be high.

The Townsends and their London solicitors, Drucks and Attlee, yesterday declined to comment.



The owner of Wood Dalling Hall, below, says Sam Chilcraft-Clarke is trespassing by watering her flowers



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LOUISE BROWN, the first test-tube baby, celebrates her coming of age today. She is planning a quiet day with her family, who can reflect on the future that greeted her birth 18 years ago.

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Louise: has never felt she is special

paved the way for the birth of 150,000 others, including Louise's sister Natalie, 15.

The process of fertilising the egg in a laboratory and then implanting it back in the womb has offered hope to tens of thousands of couples who thought they could not have children.

Mrs Brown is still delighted to have been able to pioneer in vitro fertilisation, despite the inevitable media attention. "I am very proud of both girls. My life would have been empty without them and I can't imagine living without them," she said at home in Bristol.

Louise, who is studying to become a nursery nurse, said she never felt she was someone special: "It wasn't me who made medical history. It was Mr Steptoe and Dr Edwards. They were the miracles - not me."

"I really love babies. I'm concentrating on my studies now but one thing is sure, I want to have my own children, whatever it takes."

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Dispute will test political clout of Right's would-be leader

Michael Portillo faces a critical test of his political clout which could affect his future as a standard bearer of the Tory Right after the election. He is now engaged in a fierce, and semi-public, battle with Kenneth Clarke and the Treasury over £3.5 billion of defence orders which arms equipment companies and the services had been hoping would be announced this month.

So far in his ministerial career, Mr Portillo has remained uneasily in the loyalist camp, despite the urgings of his "friends" to be bolder and occasional rhetorical indiscretions. In the process, he

has seen John Redwood emerge as the highly visible leader of the Euro-sceptic Right. Mr Portillo has just won a bruising battle with many Tory MPs and service interests over the sale of Ministry of Defence married quarters. Announcing the procurement orders now would help him rebuild his position among this group.

The current dispute has produced a powerful alignment in favour of awarding the orders — from the services (particularly the Royal Air Force and the Army), from defence suppliers, from MPs interested in defence matters (in-

**RIDDELL
ON POLITICS**

cluding yesterday the Defence Select Committee) and the larger number of members with arms factories in their constituencies, and from Tory right-wing critics of Mr Clarke. Robert Key yesterday publicly talked about an anti-Portillo manoeuvre by Mr Clarke and his friends. The orders would preserve or create thousands of jobs, not least in some Tory marginal seats, while the argument that Britain's forces need to be well-equipped has a powerful

appeal to Tory MPs. Next to law and order, defence is one of the few areas of public spending generally acceptable to Tory MPs.

It is not just a matter of the specific orders for maritime patrol aircraft, cruise missiles and anti-tank weapons, important though they are. The real argument is about whether the defence budget should escape the cuts in existing expenditure plans which the Treasury is trying to obtain across Whitehall. How far do previous promises of stability in the defence budget and protecting frontline capabilities still hold?

The Defence Select Committee

report can only partly be discounted as familiar special pleading by the defence lobby. But it is unprecedented for a Tory-dominated committee to warn that it cannot recommend the 1996 defence estimates (which will be voted upon by MPs on their return in mid-October) unless "ministers make clear in the debate that this year's statement will not again be undermined by further defence cuts in the 1996 Budget". The committee highlights widely shared worries about strains on the forces, notably for the Army as a result of the Bosnia commitment. These problems are real, however much waste

no doubt exists in the defence budget.

So eager, however, is the Cabinet to secure expenditure savings, and hence tax cuts, that Mr Clarke has won agreement that the orders should be reconsidered as part of the annual review of public spending plans. The Ministry of Defence insists that the commitment to the orders has been collectively agreed, and the only question is one of timing. But any delay could produce a postponement of some orders and have big implications for the defence industry and the morale of the services.

The issue is likely to be raised at

the Cabinet this morning. The Portillo camp naturally denies that the Treasury has "won" and claims that the orders could still come during the recess. I wonder whether there could be an announcement in the Defence Secretary's speech to the Tory conference in Bournemouth, to erase the memory of his ill-judged excesses last October. The dispute should be containable, but it involves an inflammable mix of personal, departmental and policy differences. Mr Portillo has to decide how far he wants to raise the stakes.

PETER RIDDELL

Portillo seeks allies in defence cash battle with Clarke

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MICHAEL PORTILLO will try to win support at today's Cabinet meeting in his battle against the Treasury's move to delay £3.5 billion in defence spending until next year.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is keen to delay three defence equipment contracts and have them reassessed in the forthcoming government spending round.

Mr Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has warned his Treasury colleagues about the depth of backbench feeling over previous broken promises not to reduce the defence budget. Ministers and MPs have suggested that he is fighting a losing battle but his close colleagues say that he still believes that Mr Clarke can be persuaded to relent.

Yesterday the Government was given a blunt warning against imposing further cuts this year. MPs on the Commons Defence Committee said it would refuse to recommend the Government's 1996 White Paper on defence spending to the House unless ministers promised there would be no more cuts. They want to prevent a repeat of what happened last year, when some MPs claim the Government "cheated" Parliament by cutting the budget by more than £600 million after it had been approved.

One of Mr Portillo's sup-

porters said: "He knows that MPs will not let go of this one and that some loyal government supporters are coming out in protest."

In a report published yesterday, the Defence Committee said the 1995 Statement on Defence Estimates, *Stable Forces in a Strong Britain*, was approved by the Commons on October 17. But in the Budget six weeks later, the spending plans it contained were reduced by £686 million.

Robert Key, a former Tory minister on the committee, said: "Parliament was cheated because we had a debate on the estimates. We approved the budget, and then a few weeks later these estimates were cut... Ministers must have known, when they responded to that debate, that these budget settlements had been reached."

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman and a member of the committee, said the warning that it gave the Government was unprecedent. He added: "The Ministry of Defence is no longer in charge of British defence policy. The Treasury has taken over. Tax cuts have become more important than sound defence."

Many Tory MPs protested yesterday at threat of further cuts and the plan to delay the

Armed Forces were managing

defence orders. Mr Key, MP for Salisbury, said: "There are a lot of very senior backbenchers who do not even have constituency interests who are horrified that the Chancellor may be holding up projects on which thousands of defence jobs depend. We are right behind Michael Portillo and his team of ministers. But I do have to ask myself if this is another anti-Portillo move by Ken Clarke and his friends."

North West MPs fearing threats to British Aerospace were particularly angry. Robert Atkins, MP for South Ribble, said: "It would be unacceptable to delay the procurement projects, which affect not only the North West but other areas of the country, beyond the next few days."

The decisions have been taken, the agreements have almost been made. It requires the Treasury to give the go-ahead and we expect that very soon indeed."

Nigel Evans, MP for Ribble Valley, said the delays were extremely worrying for the workforce involved. "The Government has to pull its finger out. There are many people waiting for this order to be given and they want to get to it."

In its report, the Defence Committee said that the Armed Forces were managing

to meet their commitments. However, the strain caused by short tour intervals, scarcity of training and serviceability of equipment showed that "in an emergency they would be hard-pressed to operate effectively at a higher level of activity or undertake any additional operational commitment".

The MPs said there was supposed to be a 24-month period between tours. But there had been "repeated failures" to meet this target, especially since the Army now

had 10,500 personnel serving in Bosnia. "Such repeated breaches of the 24-month tour interval mean that either Bosnia is too big a commitment for the Army or that the Army is not big enough for the tasks it is being given."

The Army's main problems were manpower shortages, meeting the Bosnia commitment and training. Only seven out of 54 regiments and corps were at or above their full establishment, with 31 units more than five per cent under strength, of which 15 were

more than 10 per cent undermanned.

The Army's heavy commitment to peacekeeping in Bosnia also meant it was unable to train as much as it should for other operations. The skills needed for high intensity and particularly armoured warfare would not be maintained, the MPs said.

Soldiers appeared to be satisfied with equipment and were proud of their achievements in Bosnia. However, the period of stability promised in last year's Defence Estimates, £19.50

Reduction in MoD police 'too drastic'

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MPs are urging the Ministry of Defence to rethink its intention of cutting its police force by more than 1,500. The reduced force of about 2,900 might not be enough to meet all unforeseen emergencies, the Commons Defence Committee said in a report published yesterday.

The MPs said a "cut of this magnitude"

could undermine the viability of the MoD police force. The MPs also cast doubt on whether a force of 2,900 would have sufficient flexibility "to respond adequately to unexpected commitments or emergencies or to fulfil its role in war".

The MoD considers that a force of as few as 2,500 would be sufficient and would still be the 21st largest force out of the 53 police forces in the UK. However, the Defence Police Federation told the

MPs the cuts, to be made by early next century, were so drastic "as to endanger the effectiveness, viability and resilience of the force".

The MPs recommended that the MoD reassess its requirements for armed guards and policing in transition to war, and in war.

□ *Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding*. Defence Committee, Eighth Report (Stationery Office: £15.90)

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World Service study agreed

BY CAROL MIDDLETON

THE Foreign Office yesterday instructed Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC Chairman, to set up a working group to address concerns about the World Service.

After a meeting between Sir Christopher and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, it was announced that a joint BBC and Foreign Office group would be formed to examine the likely impact of the proposed reorganisation which will merge World Service English language news services with mainstream departments. The Foreign Office is concerned at the effect the changes would have on output quality.

The meeting yesterday coincided with an open letter to *The Guardian* signed by 140 prominent individuals urging John Birt, BBC Director-General, to delay the implementation of the plan.

Last week Mr Birt was questioned by MPs on the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee who were dissatisfied with the summer recess on Monday, October 14. Today in the Lords, debate on plans for advertising, Recruitment and Assessment Services. The House will rise for the summer recess, returning on Tuesday, October 15.

IN PARLIAMENT

The House of Commons will return from the summer recess on Monday, October 14. Today in the Lords, debate on plans for advertising, Recruitment and Assessment Services. The House will rise for the summer recess, returning on Tuesday, October 15.

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• Friday 26th July (24 hours)

• Wednesday 31st July to

Friday 2nd August (48 hours)

• Tuesday 6th August (24 hours)

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Cards/PINs/Cheque Books

For obvious security reasons, newly ordered cards will not be collected by the Royal Mail after a specified time in advance of the strike. This should ensure that

unsigned new cards are not in the Royal Mail offices during the strike periods. You may therefore experience delays in receiving your cards. Receipt of your PIN and new cheque books may also be affected.

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Again, direct debit mandates and standing orders posted to us will be subject to delays during the strike period. To avoid this we encourage you to set up standing orders with us by telephone.

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Burundi coalition ends as President flees to US mission

FEARING for his life, the Hutu President of Burundi took refuge at the US Ambassador's residence in Bujumbura yesterday as Tutsi politicians withdrew from his fragile coalition Government, accusing him of plotting genocide against their tribe.

As news of President Ntibantunganya's flight spread through the Burundi capital, Tutsi youths armed with nail-studded clubs jogged in military formation through streets long since cleared of Hutu rivals.

Yesterday's collapse of the coalition, which has been a talking shop for Hutu and Tutsi moderates since 1993, raised the spectre of a military coup to fill a power vacuum in the blood-soaked former Belgian colony. But sources in the Tutsi-led army insisted they would not take power, mainly



Amid fears of a coup, the streets of Bujumbura have been taken over by militant Tutsis armed with nail-studded clubs, Sam Kiley writes

because they fear a coup would trigger an invasion by peacekeeping forces from Uganda and Tanzania backed by America.

The US State Department confirmed that it was sheltering Mr Ntibantunganya and called for calm in Burundi, where an average of 100 people are dying in ethnic killings every day.

Western diplomats said they were trying to "keep the situation from escalating from violence into complete chaos". But none expected much success in a country where ex-

tremists have indoctrinated members of both ethnic groups to believe the other is bent on annihilating them.

Mr Ntibantunganya fled to the US Ambassador's residence late on Tuesday night after being tipped off that the Tutsi Upurona Party was planning to withdraw from the pact which secured his post in 1994. He opted to stay there rather than risk the "protection" of his army bodyguards, who were responsible for the murder of his predecessor, Melchior Ndadaye, in 1993.

US diplomats tried to act as go-betweens for the President and Antoine Ndwayo, his Hutu Prime Minister, but the Government disintegrated when Upurona announced its withdrawal from the coalition yesterday.

Charles Makasi, president of Upurona, cancelling the convention which established a 40-60 ratio power-sharing deal between the Tutsi and Hutu parties, said that Mr Ntibantunganya "has the ideology of genocide and supports people who inflame ethnic hatred".

Meanwhile, the 1994 genocide of about a million Hutu moderates and Tutsis in neighbouring Rwanda drove Burundi's Tutsi minority into a state of violent paranoia. Hutus have sup-

piled arms and training to their ethnic kin in Burundi which has created a balance of terror with the Tutsi-dominated army.

Mr Ntibantunganya's downfall stemmed from the massacre last weekend of 312 Tutsis at a camp in Gitega, 75 miles east of the capital.

When he attempted to attend the funeral ceremony on

Tuesday, he was pelted with rocks and dung by mourners, while Tutsi soldiers looked on with indifference. The collapse of his coalition means that moderate Tutsis have lost the initiative to Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, Burundi's former military dictator, who leads the Tutsi youth militia and has long called for the overthrow

of the Hutu President.

As night settled over Bujumbura, which nestles between mountains and Lake Tanganyika, the Tutsis, who "ethnically cleansed" the capital of Hutus last year, seemed confident of the future.

But in the countryside, where Tutsis live in camps guarded by soldiers, Hutus are likely to be preparing themselves for a pre-emptive

strike against their tribal foes.

"I'm worried about my family. They don't live in Bujumbura and the army cannot be everywhere to save them when the Hutus get angry," said one hotel employee whose tribe makes up only 15 per cent of the population.

"They might even stream down from the hills and overwhelm us," he added.



President Ntibantunganya, centre, is shielded from mourners who blamed him for the ethnic killings



Victims of the massacre of 312 Tutsis at Gitega last week being buried on Tuesday. The Burundian leader was attacked at the ceremony

Mitford, queen of muckrakers, dies

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN ATLANTA

JESSICA MITFORD, the writer and former Communist activist, has died of cancer at her home in Oakland, California, aged 78.

Miss Mitford became known as the queen of muckrakers for her 1963 book *The American Way of Death* in which she attacked the unctuousness of the euphemism-bound funeral parlours, where coffins are "caskets", hearse "processional cars" and corpses "loved ones". More seriously, she accused undertakers of overcharging, and the Federal Trade Com-

mission was impressed enough to investigate the funeral business. Pauper funerals became known as "Mitfords".

Asked once what sort of send-off she would like, Miss Mitford replied: "Six black horses with white plumes, and I certainly want to be embalmed, because the embalmers claim they can make you look 20 years younger."

Miss Mitford, who was born in Batsford, Gloucestershire, eloped to Spain at the age of 19 with Esmond Romilly, Winston Churchill's

nephew, and they moved to America in 1939. Romilly was killed during the Second World War.

She started to write after losing a job in the advertising department of the *San Francisco Chronicle* when she was being investigated by the FBI for left-wing activities. She wrote the autobiographical *Hons and Rebels* in 1960.

Miss Mitford and her second husband, Robert Treuhaft, were active in the Communist Party in the Fifties and Miss Mitford was prominent in the East Bay Civil

Rights Congress, which, half a century before the Rodney King case, fought police brutality against blacks in California. She left the party after the invasion of Hungary by Soviet troops in 1956.

Joseph Dumas, an acquaintance, said yesterday: "Jessica was consistent in her views, right up to her death. She never lost her old-fashioned English demeanour, but her views belonged very much to the late part of the 20th century."

Obituary, page 19

Third jail death as Turks fast

ISTANBUL: Inmates in Istanbul's Bayrampaşa prison were refusing yesterday to release the body of Ilginc Ozkeskin, the third Turkish prisoner in as many days to die on hunger strike (Andrew Finkel writes).

While about 1,700 political prisoners throughout Turkey have been refusing solid food during the 67-day protest, more than 275 of them would be refusing sugared water. Several are reported to be in critical condition. Bulent Ecevit, the opposition leader, urged the Government to prevent what was becoming a mass suicide.

In Lyons, about 20 Turks have begun a fast to urge France to put pressure on Ankara to resolve the dispute.

When word of American

opposition to Dr Boutros Ghali was first leaked last month, Washington approached other members of the 15-nation UN Security Council to discuss possible replacements. Ms Albright told a meeting of African and other non-aligned nations on Monday that Washington's decision to block Dr Boutros



Boutros Ghali: under pressure to step down

Ghali's re-election at the end of the year was irrevocable. James Rubin, her spokesman, issued a warning that Washington would investigate any UN staff who used the organisation's time and money to muster support for a second term.

The Americans are believed to be particularly unhappy about the role played by Lansana Kouyate, the UN official who oversees Africa, in lobbying for support for Dr Boutros Ghali at the recent summit of the Organisation of African Unity.

Sylvana Foia, the chief UN spokesman, criticised America for threatening to investigate the organisation's staff, saying it smacked of McCarthyism. She accused Mr Rubin, who is about to join President Clinton's re-election campaign, of waging a "disgraceful campaign of disinformation" against the UN.

Leading article, page 17

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Spain braced for more blasts after arrest of Eta trio

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

THE Spanish Civil Guard yesterday arrested three key members of the Eta Basque guerrilla group in a dawn raid, but said that the unit behind a bombing campaign against Spanish tourist resorts was still at large and could strike again at any time.

Initially it was announced that the three people detained in a flat in Pontevedra, north-western Spain, were part of the roving Eta unit which injured 24 Britons, three seriously, in an explosion on Saturday at Tarragona's Reus airport.

Security was reinforced at tourist resorts across Spain, as Eta is expected to respond violently to yesterday's arrests. Yet the detentions in Pontevedra, which came a day after the seizure by French police of Julian Atxurra Egurrola, third in the Eta command and the group's logistics mastermind, has brought welcome relief to Spain's embattled security forces after a fortnight of bombings and intimidation of tourists.

The Pontevedra group is believed to form the nucleus of Eta's "Galicia command", and to be proteges of Iñaki de Renertia, Eta's military chief. They had apparently lived for a year in the nondescript flat in which they were arrested, without ever exciting the suspicions of the local police or neighbours.

The three were yesterday named as Aitor Fresnedo Guerricabeitia, alias Asterix, Carlos Emilio Cristóbal Martínez and María Aranzazu Garayo. They are all aged between 20 and 30, and have

been wanted by the Spanish police since 1994 for attacking a number of police stations in the Basque country, as well as the offices in Bilbao of Telefónica, the state-owned telecommunications company.

Their status as known guerrillas, as well as their long stay in Pontevedra, were both key factors in their elimination as suspects by police from the roving Eta unit which

injured 24 Britons, three seriously, in an explosion on Saturday at Tarragona's Reus airport.

Official sources are quoted in today's ABC newspaper as saying that the group may even have intended an attack on Manuel Fraga, the premier of the regional administration in Galicia. Señor Fraga, a former minister under Franco, is a long-standing Eta target, and the "Galicia command" is described as having an obsession with him.

The three detainees aroused police suspicion only 36 hours before their arrest when their van was observed making unusual manoeuvres in a local industrial estate.

On investigation, it was found to have been rented from a local agency under a false name, a common Eta ploy. The Special Intervention Unit of the Civil Guard was swiftly alerted, and officers kept the three under continuous surveillance until their arrest yesterday.

In a separate development, Jaime Mayor Oreja, the Spanish Interior Minister, announced plans to legislate for the installation of video cameras and surveillance equipment in public places in the Basque country, in an effort to combat street violence and politically motivated vandalism by radical youths in thrall to Eta.

Basque link to Metro killers

Paris: A year after a bomb ripped through the Metro, killing eight people and unleashing the worst bout of guerrilla violence in France in a decade, a French terrorism expert has reported that Eta, the Basque separatist group, has forged links with the group of Algerian Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas that was held responsible for the underground attacks (Susan Bell writes).

In an interview published yesterday in *France-Soir* newspaper, Roland Jacquard, head of the Paris-based International Terrorism Observatory, reported that the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which admitted responsibility for the attacks, has asked Eta to provide it with training.

Separated for 60 years, Mrs Feingold greets her brother, Solomon, yesterday after he flew back from Russia

Family split by war reunited after 60 years

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

A BROTHER and sister have been reunited after 60 years during which each came to believe the other was dead.

Rivka Bromberg Feingold, now 79, spent 50 years thinking that all of her family had been murdered by the Nazis. She lost contact with them after emigrating from the family home in Poland to British-mandated Palestine in 1936.

When Mrs Feingold learnt that her parents had died in Treblinka concentration camp, she assumed the rest of her family had met the same fate. "We grew up thinking that we were alone," her granddaughter Sharon told the *Jerusalem Post* yesterday. Unknown to Mrs Feingold, in the Russian town of Kazan, 400 miles from Moscow, her younger brother, Solomon, now 76, also spent most of his life convinced he was the sole remaining member of the Bromberg family.

All that ended on Tuesday with the arrival at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport of El Al Flight 612 from Moscow which brought him to Israel after what Sharon described as "a strange series of circumstances" enabled the two to meet again after research by the Jewish Agency.

It was prompted by Mr Bromberg's eldest son, Michael, who asked an employee with the Israeli telephone company, Bezeq, whom he met on a job in

Russia, to ask the Jerusalem-based organisation to try to trace family members. Weeks later the agency called Sharon Feingold and asked her if she knew anything about her grandmother's family. It was only then that it materialised that Mrs Feingold's brother was still alive and in Russia. Mrs Feingold telephoned her brother. "That phone conversation was incredibly emotional," Sharon recalled. It was only then that Mrs Feingold discovered that Solomon and another brother, Avraham, had escaped to Russia as Poland fell to the Nazis. They were separated when Avraham was wounded in an explosion and taken to a Russian hospital. Solomon said this week that he had never seen his brother after that.

Kinnock allows £588m aid for Air France

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS

NEIL KINNOCK, the European Transport Commissioner and former Labour leader, approved a further £588 million in state aid to Air France yesterday, but insisted that the days of government subsidy were over.

"State support belongs to the past in civil aviation," Mr Kinnock said after the Commission gave the nod to the final instalment of a £2.35 billion bail-out to the French Government to the ailing national operator.

Although expected, the Commission decision has upset other European carriers. Lufthansa, KLM and SAS had complained that the French airline was offering artificially cheap fares. Mr Kinnock said, however, that his investigation had shown that to be the case only on a handful of routes, to Amsterdam and Scandinavia, and that Air France had already stopped the practice. Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, had also agreed to a series of Commission conditions aimed at ensuring fair competition. It would offer facilities to other airlines at the popular Orly West terminal and would "freeze" a fifth of the new funds pending the end of the airline's restructuring.

Mr Kinnock indicated the Commission's satisfaction with the success of Air France's attempt to turn itself into a business-based enter-



Kinnock warning that state help will end

prise after years of huge losses met by the French taxpayer. "We are nearing the end of the period of major restructuring ... and of the transition from state-dependent flag carriers to competitive airlines," he said.

Air France made an operating profit last year for the first time since 1989, but that was not enough to offset heavy costs incurred by its restructuring under Christian Blanc, its chairman. In its drive to turn itself from a branch of the state into a going concern, the airline is laying off 5,000 staff, with another 1,200 voluntary redundancies to come.

The Commission, nevertheless, is expecting a formal request from Italy for a £660 million injection of government cash into Alitalia.

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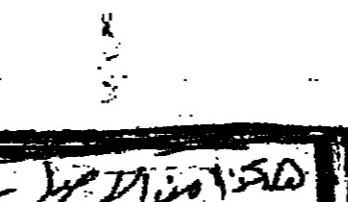
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Moscow official is British spy suspect in expulsions row

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

ESPIONAGE fiction and fact merged in Moscow yesterday when a Foreign Ministry official, who writes thrillers in his spare time and is the son of a former senior diplomat, was named as the alleged spy whose activities led to the expulsion of four British diplomats.

The weekly *Argumenty i Fakty* said that the suspected spy facing trial is Platon Obukhov, 28, an official in the North American Department of the Foreign Ministry. His father, Aleksei, was a former Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister and Ambassador to Denmark until this summer, when he resigned for health reasons.

Four British and four Russian diplomats were expelled from Moscow and London in the worst spy incident between Russia and the West since the end of the Cold War. At the time the British Embassy denied all knowledge of a supposed British agent who was being interrogated in Lefortovo prison. The Foreign Ministry was keen to play down the incident and it seems that that was partly because one of its employees was the alleged agent involved.

Argumenty i Fakty said the FSB, the successor to the KGB, had followed Mr Obukhov and filmed him passing information to British Embassy staff. But he told his interrogators that he was gathering material for his latest spy novel.

Mr Obukhov, whose thrillers have included *In the Embrace of the Spider*, has described how the Russian mafia cultivated links with British and American intelligence. The newspaper suggested that his next book should be called *Playing at Death* because that is the sentence he faces if he is convicted of treason.

Sinai diggers unearth horse power that overran Egypt

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER
MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

ARCHAEOLOGISTS working in Egypt's Sinai peninsula, which was handed back by Israel under the 1979 peace treaty, have unearthed the first physical evidence of a horse in Egypt.

The international team made the discovery as they began work on a pharaonic fort marking the start of ancient Egypt's road to the east. The horse dates from the Hyksos invasion of pharaonic Egypt in about 1700 BC and confirms pictures suggesting that the Hyksos, though to be invaders from Asia, brought the first horses to the land of the Pharaohs.

The horse as a war machine at the time was equivalent to the Scud missiles of today. Pharaonic Egypt was pretty powerful, so the Hyksos, who were few in number, had to have an original device to defeat them," said Muhammad Abdel Maguid, the director of the expedition.

The fort on Horus' "Road of War", named for the Egyptian sun god, is one of 15 ancient forts that members of the North Sinai Archaeological Salvage Project have found in the area between Qantarah Sharq in the north and the east Sinai town of Rafah, on the border with the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.



They date from the pharaonic, Graeco-Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods, spanning 4,000 years of history.

Horus' road was used for expeditions to Syria, Palestine or Lebanon. Spearheads and axes were found as evidence of those expeditions," Mr Maguid said. Restoration of the road is a costly Egyptian scheme to promote the tourist industry along the remote north Sinai coast.

The wall surrounding the Qantarah fort is 50ft wide and will remain covered in sand so that the weather does not destroy it. Outside it lies the soldiers' barracks. A public bath within the ruins includes a footbath used by the soldiers after they returned to the relative security of the site. The footbath, which was filled with soothing oils, resembles

a round tub with carved niches for feet.

Each fort bears the marks of several civilisations as newcomers would inhabit and revive or build on an old fort.

One built by Seti I in about

1200 BC, for example, was

called Saru by the ancient

Egyptians and Seyalla in the Graeco-Roman period.

The discovery of the forts was the result of archaeological detective work which began in a hall of the temple of Karnak in Upper Egypt when a drawing of Seti's expedition to protect Egypt's eastern borders was uncovered by experts. The huge, 3,000-year-old drawing, more than 160ft long, was at first believed to be imaginary. Now archaeologists are trying to see if it can help them to find other ancient forts in the desert region.

THE TIMES



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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JULY 25 1996

Appeal court rules Titan illegal

By ROBERT MILLER

THOUSANDS of investors are believed to have lost at least £17 million after the Court of Appeal ruled that the Titan Business Club, a controversial money-making scheme, was illegal.

As many as 12,000 people had been recruited by Titan at "revivalist-style" meetings held in towns and cities around the country. They handed over between £2,500 and £3,000 to join the club. The new Titan members were then supposed to recoup their club joining fee by recruiting four or five other people.

The Department of Trade and Industry first applied to the courts in May to have Titan closed down. Earlier this month the department made a similar application with

regard to a new scheme, Titan International LLC, an American limited liability company.

In both cases the DTI alleged that the schemes were illegal lotteries and pyramid-selling schemes that were bound to fail eventually. Both the old and the new Titan schemes are the subject of High Court injunctions not to hold meetings or to recruit new members or to send money out of the country.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, ruled yesterday that such schemes are indeed illegal. He added: "They

involve those who set up, promote, purvey and administer the scheme in criminal offences. This I hope will deter those who may be tempted to create clones of Titan."

Lord Woolf, sitting with Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Saville upheld the earlier judgment of Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, who said that Titan was an "illegal lottery" and that SHV, the German administration company for the scheme, was "highly unsatisfactory, highly suspicious and thoroughly undesirable".

Lord Justice Millett said he had

great concern about "the certainty that the scheme will cause loss to a large number of people, and the longer the scheme is allowed to continue, the greater the number who will inevitably suffer loss".

He continued: "The number of people who are sufficiently gullible to be persuaded to join may be very large but it is obviously finite; so is the amount of money which can be raised by a scheme of this kind. The scheme is bound to come to an end sooner or later. When it does most of its members will have lost their money. This is not merely likely; it is

a mathematical certainty." The judge estimated that at least 7,000 Titan members "must have lost all or some of their money".

Dec and Con Chusley, members of the Bachelors, the 1960s group that had hits with *Diane and I Believe* and who are members of Titan, have been strongly critical of the DTI action. Dec's son Oliver recently signed up to the scheme, and his mother Sandy, who is not a Titan member, said yesterday: "It certainly looks like Oliver has lost his money. I've devoted my working life to Herbalife International."

Dec said: "I can't understand why the Tory-backed DTI is acting against Titan in this way. I am certainly tempted not to vote Conservative at the next election."

Charles Buckley, the lawyer acting for Titan, which is believed to have spent more than £1 million in legal fees to fight the DTI case, said: "We will fight, fight and fight. This is an invasive interference by the judiciary and the establishment in the rights and freedoms of citizens to spend their money as they wish, and in violation of Article 59 of the Maastricht treaty. It is also in violation of the Supreme Court of Bavaria's ruling that the scheme is not a lottery."

The DTI has sent a file to the Serious Fraud Office for a preliminary investigation.

Warmer weather gives boost to high street sales

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

SALES in Britain's high streets surged last month, helped by warm summer weather and an apparent boost to spending on alcohol during the Euro 96 football tournament.

Retail sales volumes jumped 1.3 per cent, the biggest rise in any month since January 1994. In addition, May's weak sales figure, thought to be related to unseasonably bad weather, was revised upwards 0.4 per cent, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Together, this pushed the year-on-year rate from 2.4

per cent in May to 3.3 per cent in June, the highest annual rate since late 1994.

June's bounce was much bigger than the 0.8 per cent expected in the City and most economists are now convinced that there is no chance of another rate cut when Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, next week for their monthly discussion on monetary policy.

The biggest gain in sales was in clothing and footwear, which jumped 5.6 per cent compared with May. The

Adam Cole, of HSBC James Capel, said that he expected retail sales to grow 3 per cent this year and 5 per cent in 1997. He said that unless second-quarter figures for gross domestic product were exceptionally weak, "any hopes of a rate cut at next week's monetary meeting evaporated with this data".

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, said that second-quarter GDP was more likely to show growth of 0.6 per cent than the 0.5 per cent previously estimated. He added: "Although the inflation outlook is very good for the next 18 months or so, the authorities do not need to cut interest rates to revive the economy."

"We are continuing our discussion with a number of parties regarding the leasehold portfolio and others in respect of stock purchases to maximise recoveries from the company's assets."

"Escom is in talks to sell its Hush Puppy chain to Stylo Barrett. Another 290 stores in Facia Footwear may be closed."

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Escom closure costs 850 jobs

By GEORGE SIVELL

AROUND 850 jobs are to be lost after receivers to Escom UK closed the chain of 156 computer stores in Britain when they failed to find a buyer. The news was broken to staff at the 113 stores and 43 concessions yesterday.

Deloitte and Touche, the receivers, were sent into Escom UK almost two weeks ago after Escom AG,

the German parent group, filed for administration.

Deloitte said yesterday that it had no choice but to close the British stores and seek buyers for the properties.

Deloitte said: "The decision has been made because of a lack of serious interest in purchasing the business as a going concern, disappointing trading results and the high costs of continuing to trade."

"Those parties who have expressed an interest are

either only prepared to take

on a small number of outlets or only want to purchase stocks."

Nick Dargan, who is handling the receivership at Deloitte, said: "It is disappointing that the business as a whole cannot be sold but, given the oversupply in the retail computer market and rapidly declining margins in the sector, it was always a possibility."

"We are confirming our

plans to recruit extra staff to help to improve computer systems, employing more senior managers and a panel of

"grey Panthers" or recently

retired senior bankers to report directly to Oliver Page, the deputy director of supervision and surveillance. At present the Bank spends about £34 million annually on banking supervision.

Mr Davies said: "We are

confident that we will be at the

leading edge of global best

practice in banking supervision in all areas." He added,

however, that the tough new

supervisory regime, with bank



A safe pair of hands: Sir Alastair Morton, left, with Robert Malpas yesterday

Malpas to take tunnel reins from Morton

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT MALPAS was yesterday named as the successor to Sir Alastair Morton, who is to step down as the co-chairman of Eurotunnel in the autumn.

Mr Malpas, 68, who has been a non-executive director of Eurotunnel since 1987, will take over the post on a part-time basis when the company completes refinancing negotiations with its banks. He will work alongside Patrick Ponson, his full-time French counterpart.

City analysts said the downgrading of the British chairman's role completed a virtual French coup d'état at the top of the struggling company, with most of the key decision-making jobs passing into Gallic hands.

Mr Malpas, chairman of Cookson Group, has held executive posts at ICI, BP, and Pernod-Ricard, which he left after a boardroom bust-up in 1990. But he is being seen in the City as a stop-gap "safe pair of hands" until the banks install a new younger chairman after Eurotunnel's financial future as been secured.

Sir Alastair said talks on a £9 billion restructuring agreement with the 225 banks confirmed, but conceded that some were proving reluctant to fall into line.

Pennington, page 25

Standard sells BoS at discount

By GEORGE SIVELL

STANDARD LIFE, the Edinburgh insurer, has secured buyers for its 32 per cent stake in Bank of Scotland, according to sources close to the deal, but at a lower than expected price of 22p.

The stake, which was originally expected by the City to be sold at a premium to an expected bidder, ended up fetching less than the prevailing market price. Bank of Scotland shares closed up 1p at 23p before the result of the secondary offer was announced.

Advisers to the deal had been hoping for a price in the high 22s as recently as Tuesday evening. However, they maintained last night that the price achieved was reasonable given the weakening of the stock market in the past few weeks. The shares were 24p when the offer was announced.

Brent 15-day (Oct) \$18.85 (\$18.85)

London close \$384.45 (\$384.45)

* denotes midday trading price

Bank to step up supervision

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Bank of England yesterday unveiled far-reaching plans to recruit up to 50 frontline supervisors and increase spending by up to £1 million over the next three years to tighten the regulatory regime on the 500 banks it supervises.

The restructuring plans follow a nine-month study by Arthur Andersen, the accountancy, on how the Bank operates.

The review was one of a series

of recommendations made as

part of the Board of Banking

Supervision's inquiry into the

£830 million Barings collapse.

Howard Davies, deputy governor of the Bank, said that the

plans outlined in the Review of

Supervision, would also include recruiting extra staff to help to improve computer systems, employing more senior managers and a panel of

"grey Panthers" or recently

retired senior bankers to report

directly to Oliver Page, the

deputy director of supervision

and surveillance. At present the Bank spends about

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supervision.

Mr Davies said: "We are

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practice in banking supervision in all areas." He added,

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supervisory regime, with bank

Lonrho quits US coal talks

By CARL MORTISHED AND OLIVER AUGUST

THE proposed purchaser has informed Costain that, in the context of its own business objectives, it has decided not to proceed.

The UK construction group is thought to have been seeking around £45 million for the American coalmines. However, the South African company was unable to justify the price after conducting its own investigations into the mines which are based in Kentucky.

Costain has been seeking a buyer for its US coal arm since the beginning of the year to reduce its high debt. On Monday, Costain secured shareholder approval for a

rescue cash injection from Intria Berhad, a Malaysian group. The refinancing, which involved the underwriting by Intria of a £73 million share offer, is expected to leave the Malaysians with 40 per cent of the company. The deal aroused the opposition of a major shareholder, Kharafi, the Kuwaiti contractor which owns 19 per cent of Costain.

Dutker has been expanding its coal interests since the 1993 purchase of Agipcoal in South Africa. Costain's Kentucky coal operations edged into profit last year.

Tempus, page 26

Delta passengers spend hours in cramped, uncomfortable seats.

We flew Britain's Olympic oarsmen to Atlanta to compete in the coxed pairs. In fact, we fly there non-stop, three times a day; more than anybody else. ▲Delta Air Lines

Bank looks for tougher supervision Countdown to crucial United vote Expecting a cut from the Bundesbank

□ BANK of England door bolters, their skills honed by 20 years of practice, now have detailed, foolproof plans to seal another empty stable, where the thoroughbred Barings once stood. The latest prescriptive report, drawn up by Arthur Andersen, was so expensive that the Bank's deputy governor repeatedly brought up its cost yesterday, while refusing to say how much that was.

Annual supervision costs should rise by up to 25 per cent, if the Bank can bring itself to recruit as many supervisors as Andersen wants. Similar re-organisations to beef up supervision, make it more systematic and bring in experienced outsiders followed the 1974 secondary bank crash, the Johnson Matthey Bankers affair and BCCI. This one, based on risk analysis, looks better than most. Bank directors know they must be able to defend the quality of their system objectively if they are to avoid losing power to a British SEC.

One fatal flaw remains. The Bank's ethos as a macroeconomic policymaker builds a culture of failure into its role as supervisor. Unlike other regulators, the Bank regards the occasional failure as useful *pour encourager les autres* and to make depositors more careful.

After the Barings crash Eddie

George, the Governor, told astonished Japanese bankers that failure was "an essential discipline on the banking system". The central bank had only set off to prevent such a collapse setting off a domino effect. Yet Barings swiftly pulled the rug from beneath other independent British investment banks, who gained most from traditional "judgmental" regulation.

Howard Davies, the new deputy governor, loyally supported the party line yesterday, arguing that it was wrong to adopt prevention of failure as a guideline for supervision. It would be possible to prevent all failures, he said, but that would negate bankers' economic function as risk-takers.

As Mr Davies acknowledged, however, the new supervisory regime with its inbuilt quality control is bound to be judged by the number of bank failures. That is why, whenever a well-known bank crashes, there is the ritual political row, followed at the Bank by an investigation, an organisational shake-up and a change of personnel.

To maintain this contradiction

is intellectually effete and undermines the central bank's supervisory role. No one is sure if Threadneedle Street really takes the job seriously. That is why the Bank is distrusted even though Britain is relatively free from bank failures.

We shall find out more when the Bank publishes its regulatory objectives. If it wants to be an effective watchdog without being a nanny, the Bank's new supervisors should accord credit ratings to their charges, as recommended by Arthur Andersen, and publish them regularly. There was little sign yesterday that it was prepared to do either.

Funds must take a stand and deliver

□ TOMORROW marks a defining moment in British corporate governance, and any of those institutions tempted to tiptoe away from the United Utilities farago rather than state their case deserve to be pilloried just as much as its greedy directors.

The argument against such open shareholder revolts, and

weaken their power in any subsequent confrontation.

No one, but no one, in the City has anything positive to say about United's long-term incentive plan, if you except the coterie of professional advisers whose views can be disregarded. The point has been made to the company time and again and the scheme, providing unacceptable rewards for non-descript performance, remains in place.

Now there are signs that a few institutions, a small number but perhaps enough to swing the vote in the board's favour, are going to abstain. They do not like the scheme, which allows bonuses to be paid even if United underperforms its clear competitors and even stacks these up on top of over-generous rises in basic pay. But they are unwilling to say so even in the relative privacy of the proxy vote.

This assumes that the company keen to reward its executives with undue generosity is amenable to that sort of civilised debate. But United Utilities has shown itself unconcerned with the views of the City investors. That leaves only one course open to them, and their refusal to resort to the nuclear option would drastically

owners, the shareholders. Any abstention is an act of cowardice. United's arrogance should not go unpunished.

A round of German whist

□ BLACK Wednesday almost four years ago may have been tough on the British Treasury, but Frankfurt was equally traumatised. Ever since then Bundesbank officials have harboured a deep-seated aversion towards the currency markets because they cost the German central bank billions of marks through support operations for the pound.

Today an interest rate cut is expected in Frankfurt, but doubts will remain until it is formally announced. The Bundesbank blamed the ERM collapse at least partly on the dealers' rumour mill, so poker-faced officials set out never to be second-guessed again. On Tuesday Ernst Welteke, a Bundesbank council member, speculated in public about a rate cut. Based on recent experience, some dealers regard

this as a ploy to wrong-foot them yet again. So if the cut comes today they will have been foiled once more.

The best thing the currency markets can do is to ignore the Bundesbank's game and look at economic fundamentals. Germany's continued slow growth and low inflation figures present a classic scenario for cutting rates, even if this runs against trends elsewhere, in America and Japan, for a rise in interest rates. Last year's talk of a double-dip recession has now faded, but Germany is still facing near record postwar unemployment, while the strong mark has meant exports have suffered. A rate cut would seem the perfect antidote.

Child labour

□ "CHILD tipped for Eurotunnel chair" read an arresting if ill-informed headline in the weekend press. The infant in question was Denis Child, a Eurotunnel director aged, as it happens, 69. Instead the board, resisting an all-French takeover, has gone for a right bruiser in Robert Malpas. One of those executives who attract epithets like "combative" and "aggressive", he should prove a worthy successor to Sir Alastair Morton — providing the banks now in the driving seat allow him time to make his mark.

Reuters fails to impress on revenue

By ERIC REGULY

REUTERS, the financial information and trading group, disappointed shareholders yesterday with lower than expected revenue growth and lack of details about its long-promised plans to return cash to shareholders.

The company announced early this year that it was exploring ways of reducing its £850 million cash pile, which is growing by about £30 million a year.

Options included a share buyback, similar to the £350 million buyback in 1993, or a special dividend. Spending it on an acquisition was said to be unlikely.

Peter Job, chief executive, said: "We are continuing to study means of distributing cash to our shareholders and still expect to resolve the issue by the end of the year."

The City believes that negotiations with the Inland Revenue and the Internal Revenue Service in America — one third of Reuters shareholders are in the US — are moving

more slowly than the company had anticipated. Reuters reported pre-tax profits of £342 million, or 14.6p per share, in the half year to June 30, up 19 per cent, on revenue that grew 11 per cent to £1.44 billion. But after discounting currency fluctuations, revenue was up only 8 per cent.

Jason Crisp, an analyst with Staus Turnbull, said: "Investors wanted to see something more exciting." He had been predicting revenue growth of about 9% per cent for the year.

Growth in information product sales was slow because of the continued consolidation among Reuters' clients. Transaction products, dominated by Instinet, the equities transaction system, defied the trend with a 28 per cent rise in revenues to £405 million.

Reuters is to pay an interim dividend of 2.75p, up 20 per cent. The shares closed at 703p, down 25p.

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Dairy Crest to get lower valuation

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DAIRY CREST, the milk and cheese manufacturer, is heading for a lower than expected valuation at flotation of about £175 million. The company had hoped for a figure of £200 million to £250 million.

Impact day is July 31 and dealings are due to start on August 28. Dairy Crest is the former milk processing arm of the Milk Marketing Board and is indirectly owned by 29,000 dairy farmers, who are to receive 70 per cent of the 110 million shares. Institutions are to buy the rest.

Recent weakness in the new issue market has suggested that a big discount to comparable companies such as Northern Foods and Unigate will be required and 15p to 16p now looks the probable range. This would give a prospective dividend yield of around 7 per cent, which compares favourably with Northern Food and Unigate's 6 per cent.

Stagecoach poised to push into Scandinavia

By FRASER NELSON

STAGECOACH, the UK bus and rail company, is poised to become the largest bus operator in Scandinavia after being selected as the preferred bidder for Swibus, Sweden's recently privatised bus operator.

The deal, expected to be worth between £110 and £120 million, will give Stagecoach a foothold in Europe, adding operations in Finland, Norway and Denmark to a joint venture in Portugal.

The acquisition would add 3,500 buses to Stagecoach's worldwide fleet of 7,200. Stagecoach shares rose 17p to 455p.

Exchange to speed up reporting

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE London Stock Exchange is to increase the proportion of trades reported on its screens immediately after completion from 75 to 85 per cent. From October it will require publication of so-called protected trades immediately.

Also yesterday the Securities and Investments Board said the Treasury had accepted its advice that a new form of tax relief should replace stamp duty exemptions for market-makers, broker-dealers and market intermediaries. The rules also apply to Tradepoint, the Stock Exchange rival.

Sir Andrew Large, SIB chairman, said: "We recognise that our proposals on stamp duty, together with the changes planned by the London Stock Exchange, will have significant effects." He said they would enhance liquidity for on-exchange transactions and provide for fairer competition among a wider range of intermediaries.





the traditional City view, is that the hard work of bringing public companies to heel is better done behind closed doors, where no one but the participants knows just how bitter the ceremony is, rather than in public at the annual meeting. Public rows damage the share price, and investing institutions and those whose money they are investing are the ones who suffer.

This assumes that the company keen to reward its executives with undue generosity is amenable to that sort of civilised debate. But United Utilities has shown itself unconcerned with the views of the City investors. That leaves only one course open to them, and their refusal to resort to the nuclear option would drastically

weaken their power in any subsequent confrontation.

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Wall Street guru gives London an anxious time

THE expected sell-off on Wall Street failed to materialise, enabling share prices in London to repair some of the early damage.

Elaine Garzarelli, the New York guru, was the prophet of doom that had investors on both sides of the Atlantic scurrying for cover after she predicted a massive 20 per cent correction in the Dow Jones average. Garzarelli has an established track record, having forecast the 1987 stock market crash. Institutional investors are inclined to hang on her every word.

As a result, shares in London fell sharply, with the index tumbling almost 65 points at one stage in anticipation of Wall Street's reaction to her comments.

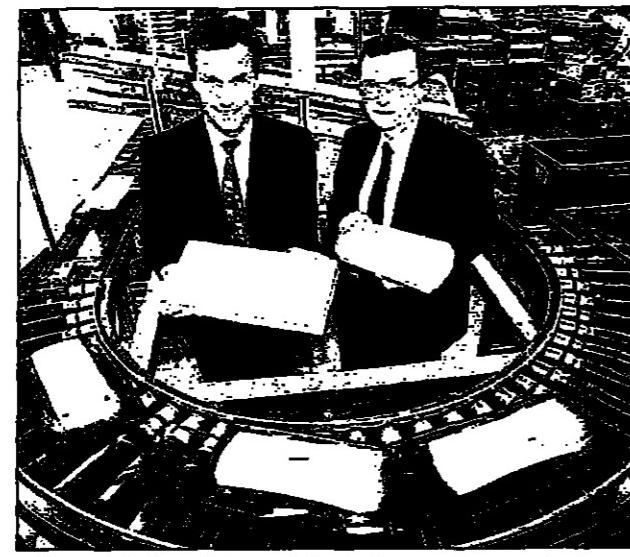
The Dow, in fact, responded with an opening fall of 76 points, but the clear absence of selling pressure on both sides of the Atlantic and the appearance of a few bargain-hunters, led to a sizeable rally.

The FTSE 100 index eventually closed 39.6 points down at 3,668.8 in thin trading that saw less than 600 million shares change hands. The rally might have been better sustained had it not been for the latest sharp rise in retail sales reviving fears of growing inflationary pressures.

Shares of Suter, the electronics components group headed by David Abel, charged ahead 27p to 197p on learning of a bid approach from Ascot Holdings. Both sides are now in talks which could lead to an agreed offer being made, although it seems almost certain that Ascot will have to turn to shareholders to ask for the money to finance the deal.

Last night City speculators said Ascot, down 8p at 361p, might be prepared to offer 220p a share, valuing Suter at £260 million. But a bid for Suter in any shape or form is likely to be bad news for one leading securities house. Gosspit in the Square Mile claimed one market-maker is frantically trying to cover an open position after going short of the stock earlier this week.

British Steel consolidated Tuesday's rise, finishing just 1p lighter at 171p, after reporting that results in the first quarter were up to expectations. Sir Brian Moffatt, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that selling prices of most steel products, especially stainless steel, were



Roger Fletcher, right, and Gavin James, finance director, at Menvier-Swain's Banbury factory. The shares rose 25p

under pressure and were now trading at their lowest level for almost three years. But he was confident about prospects, with de-stocking pressures starting to ease.

Bid talk lifted Christian Salvesen up to a new high of 289p. The shares have come up from a low of 243p this year. Speculators say the company could soon find itself on

to maintain its market position in the equities and fixed income market. The development of the 3000 range of financial information systems will restrict revenue growth short-term, especially in the second half. That seems to have scuppered hopes that the group will embark on a share buy-back operation.

Better than expected first

million to £525 million. Yet another profit warning left Bullough, the engineering concern, 10p lower at a new four-year low of 86p.

A 12 per cent increase in full-year profits and encouraging remarks about prospects lifted Menvier-Swain 25p to 270p. UBS, the company's own broker, is recommending the shares to clients and expects the group to lift profits in the current year to £15.6 million. Credit Lyonnais Laing also rates Menvier-Swain, whose chief executive is Roger Fletcher, a buy. It says the fall in the share price ahead of the figures was overdone and they now look "extremely attractive". Ian Jermin at Laing is forecasting profits of £16 million.

Spargo Consulting, the computer systems services group, held steady at 157p after chipping in with pre-tax profits 17 per cent higher at £602,000.

Shares of Mosaic, the main vehicle of financier David Williams, were unchanged at 39p after reporting sharply reduced losses. The group's restructuring has now been completed leaving Williams time to concentrate on Waste Recycling, his other company, which unveils figures next week. The shares finished 1p dearer at 177p.

□ GILT-EDGED: Bond prices closed near their best of the day after shrugging off a stronger than expected set of retail sales figures, indicating that inflationary pressures are continuing to grow.

Prices had opened better on the back of strong US treasury bonds overnight, before coming off the boil on the back of those retail sales. But the buyers would not be deterred and picked up stock at the longer end. Brokers said this added well for today's auction of £1.5 billion of existing Treasury 8 per cent 2015.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was 15.32p better at 998.4, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 15.8p better at 1003.4.

□ NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street were lifted by morning bargain-hunters and program buying. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 29.59 points higher at 3,576.14.

Note the price of Albrighton, the loss-making sandstone and granite specialist, where the shares continue to trawl the depths at a low of 6p. The shares are now less than half the level at which they started the year. In May, the group asked shareholders to stump up almost £2 million with a one-for-two rights at 6p.

The receiving end of a bid from Hays, the rival business services group, 3p cheaper at 440p. At these levels, Salvesen is valued at £826 million.

Half-year figures from Reuters matched expectations,

with pre-tax profits up from £288 million to £342 million, but there was a sting in the tail. The group says it will have to spend money in order

half figures from Lloyds Abbey caught the market on the hop and lifted the shares 9p to 556p. The final figure came in at £259 million compared with estimates ranging from £210 million to £220 million. Brokers have now begun upgrading their full-year estimates with the likes of Nikko, the Japanese securities house, increasing its forecast from £458

million cash injection. Costain can keep going. Costain has more than just a breathing space but the company still needs to find a buyer for its Kentucky coal business.

That search could now take a lot longer if Costain is wedded to achieving book value, upwards of £40 million.

Costain's operations produce a mixture of high and low sulphur coal and considerable sums have been invested in improving productivity, with the result that Costain's coal business is now capable of achieving a profit.

However, others have found US coalmining a difficult and litigious sector, with a history of industrial unrest.

Costain would dearly love to leave Kentucky and head East for the construction hotspots of South East Asia. But, like improvident relations, the Kentucky miners are proving difficult to ignore.

THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 25 1996

TEMPUS

Buying a new Suter

ONLY a few years ago, the idea that Suter would agree to a bid from Control Securities would have been treated as ludicrous. Not so long ago, Control Securities — now renamed and refashioned Ascot Holdings — was teetering on the brink of collapse with about £300 million of debts bequeathed to the present management by its former chairman Nazmu Virani. Suter meanwhile, acquired a mixed reputation with its habit of emerging as an unwelcome guest on the share registers of the DTI, although no action was ever taken.

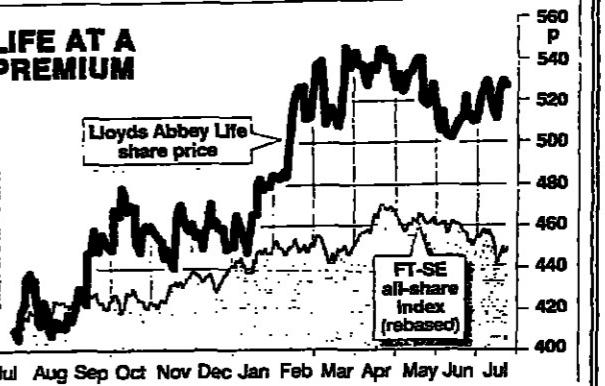
But, in recent years, both companies have sought to escape their past. Ascot has sold more than 100 businesses inherited from the days when Mr Virani was in control, wiping out the company's debt and generating sufficient funds to launch a bid for an

industrial holding company. Suter has also shed its myriad of share holdings and businesses with the aim of creating a company focused on three areas: refrigeration, specialist engineering and chemicals.

The three divisions look in good shape, producing a 47 per cent increase in operating profits last year, and offer good growth potential. But Suter's share price has barely budged, recently standing on a forward price earnings ratio of just 1.1.

Ascot can therefore benefit from a re-rating following a takeover, although it will need to structure the terms of its financing, which is likely to include a rights issue, with care. But for both sets of shareholders, there is an opportunity not just to combine two balance sheets but to finally bury two less than glorious histories.

Lloyds Abbey Life rising daily, consolidation becomes an ever more expensive business. A better solution would be to sell TSB Life to Lloyds Abbey for shares; the price may not look attractive short-term but the cost savings could be huge and suggest that Lloyds Abbey is cheap on a forward yield of 5.6 per cent.



RECENT ISSUES

	Alzyme	48	...
Allied Carpets	230	-4	
Alumax	1906	+94	
BATM Adv Cm	128	-	
Bellhaven Brewery	196	-3	
British Energy (100)	97	-	
Digital Animations	80	-	
Drifts of Bath	4	-	
Electronic Retail	148	-	
Fayrestead	51	-	
Han Pat	57	-	
Hoare Govett 1000 C	97	-	
Independent Brit	76	-2	
Life Numbers	15	-	
Life Numbers Wts	6	+1	
Louderking	4*	-	
Louderking Wts	15	-	
NECA	18	-	
Pace Micro (172)	176	-4	
Pondum Foods Wts	1*	-	
Quintain Ests & Dev	114	-	
Selector	70	-	
Templeton Fund	96	-	
Therapeutic Ant	507	-2	
UNO	165	+4	
Vardar	2664	-	
SEAO Volume	579,000	-	
USM (Datamonitor)	2011-10	-	
USM (Financial)	1,554,000	+40,000	
German Mark	2,312.00	+0.0012	
Exchange Index	185.0	+0.1	
Bank of England official close (4pm)	1,211.00	-	
EBCU	1,034.00	-	
EPM	153.0 Jun (2.1%) Jan 1987-100	-	
RPM	152.6 Jun (2.8%) Jan 1987-100	-	

RIGHTS ISSUES

	Cowie n/p (355)	14	-1
Greene King n/p (545)	48	-	
Kays Food n/p (2)	1*	-	
Old English n/p (100)	160	-	
Sema n/p (995)	122*	-3*	
Syn Cap n/p (110)	2	-	
Tinsley Rbr n/p (130)	14	-	
Transpac n/p (103)	10	-	
Tullow Oil n/p (80)	7*	-	
Vardy n/p (300)	4	-1	

CLOSING PRICES Page 29

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Investors should not necessarily flee — the prospect of a special dividend or share buyback is alluring — but Reuters gave them little reason to add to their holdings.

The shares are trading at a lofty 28 times earnings, and that probably will be as good as it gets for some time.

Reuters

REUTERS was in a subdued, if not downbeat, mood yesterday and the shares reacted accordingly. Other than news of spectacular growth at Instinet, its main equities transaction product, there was more cause for concern than cheer. This is a rare sensation for Reuters shareholders, whose enthusiasm has been rewarded handsomely in the past few years.

Reuters is beginning to run out of steam. Its revenues in the first half grew by 11 per cent, but currency fluctuations meant that the true growth was closer to 8 per cent, well short of the 9 per cent to 10 per cent forecast by the City for the full year.

Sales of trading-room and information-management systems were essentially flat, and growth was down in America.

Investors should not expect the 3000 series, the razzle-dazzle new financial-information products, to change

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EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

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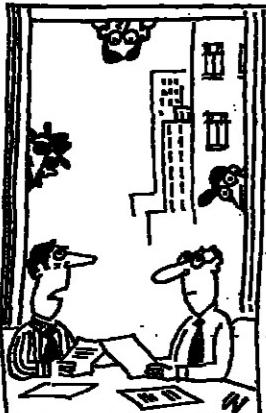
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**THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY**

Bank feels the Andersen pinch
HOWARD DAVIES was in impish humour at yesterday's meeting to unveil plans for the new-look Bank of England. After introducing John Turner, a senior partner at Arthur Andersen, who was in charge of the accountancy team that helped to compile the programme of change, the wily Deputy Governor called for questions from the floor. Speaking from purse-filled experience, Davies slipped in the following warning: "In our experience, Arthur Andersen may well charge for the answers that they give you."

PAUL TUCKER, head of the gilt-edged and money markets division at the Bank of England, will be the first to move as a result of yesterday's shake-up. Tucker, who was once private secretary to Robin Leigh-Pemberton, now Lord Kingsdown, will replace Clive Briault, who is moving to the supervision and surveillance area, as head of the monetary assessment and strategy division. But, unlike his cricket crazy seniors, Tucker, 38, works too hard to take an interest in sport.



"New banking surveillance division – Bank of England"

Elephantine?

"HOW to turn the Elephant and Castle shopping centre into an Angel Delight advert and stay cool when the media question you," is the latest training course to be hosted by the BBC radio training department. The inspiration? Matthew Heath, managing director of The Brand Encounter, the marketing outfit recently appointed by the Department of Environment to assess the money-making potential of Britain's national monuments. Apparently, Heath's first appearance on radio, only last week, went so well that the BBC immediately hired the man, who wants to turn the Lloyd's building into an advertisement for Curly Wurly, as a lecturer.

Sally out

EUROSTAR refused to allow Sally Ferries to distribute free travel passes at Waterloo station today. Eurostar took umbrage at the cross-Channel ferry company's decision to offer free travel to upright commuters caught up in today's Underground strike. Instead, free travelcards to France and Belgium will be handed out at the main stations, including Victoria, Charing Cross, Liverpool Street, and Clapham Junction. Sally Ferries is also running a one-off duty-free offer for those commuters who choose to take the plunge.

If the shoe fits

KEN BARTLE, chief executive of Stead & Simpson, the footwear retailer that has just bought 39 Freeman Hardy Willis stores from Fasica, has been boasting about past feats. Between 1968 and 1978, Bartle ran Freeman Hardy, at the time when Sir Charles Clore ruled Sears with an iron glove. But things were different in those days, he says: "That was when they made money."

MORAG PRESTON

A welfare system reshaped by force of individualism

Giving more power to the consumer is the theme of a plethora of reform plans

When Kenneth Clarke dismissed last week his officials' musings on privatising the welfare state as the work of kids, he was betraying a visceral discomfort with radicalism. Here was yet another issue where there was clear red water between him and the right of his party.

The Chancellor is stubbornly wed on these issues, a defender of a half-way house position, denizen of limbo between public and private provision. He made this position clear in his interview with *The Times* in May.

He argued that most of the people who advocate reform of the welfare state and public services "have done a lot less of it than I have". He cited his part in promoting market efficiencies in the health service, school league tables and Budget changes that moved more spending into family credit to support people in low-paid work: all aimed at creating a modern welfare state.

But he was scathing about those who would have Britain move towards an insurance-based system and claimed that he had persuaded Margaret Thatcher against introducing one. His *bête noire* is the American version, which he argues is crushingly expensive for the better-off and employers and fails to deliver basic services to the needy. "The American system of health care, and quite a lot of the American system of welfare generally, should be a warning to us all and should not be something to be emulated by the new right in this country."

He speaks for many people, many in the Labour Party, who distrust creeping privatisation of services and the welfare state. But, even in comparison with his counterpart in New Labour, Mr Clarke is dyed in the wool. After all, he placed himself to the left of Gordon Brown in defending child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds.

Gordon Brown and his colleagues have clearly left far behind the ideology of 1992. In the argument that public spending at 40 per cent plus of the economy is an unnecessary drag on performance. Frightening demographic statistics that show a dramatic worsening of dependency ratios as the population ages argue for action. Although some argue that these scare stories are overdone because the working population is enriching itself fast enough to bear the cost, there is little doubt that those countries with lower proportions of

public spending have been better performers.

But money is not the only issue. The system is riddled with disincentives. Frank Field is a passionate crusader against means-testing – a view Labour shares in principle – which now accounts for 36 per cent of all benefits, compared with 17 per cent in 1979. "The great drive by the Tories to push people on to means-tested assistance is the biggest ever [PWP] set-back in a way of ambition on self-improvement," he says. Means-testing encourages people to keep their aspirations at a low level or simply lie about their finances. The social security bill has kept rising in spite of the spread of means-testing, proof that trying to claw back money piecemeal from the existing system is not working.

Nor does the system reflect a society changed beyond recognition since the days of Beveridge. Both parties are trying to re-jig the relationship between taxes and benefits to reflect the breakdown of nuclear families but their ideas are far from tackling the different needs of a fluid society with a flexible labour market. Andrew Dobson, a former banker and architect of the Personal Welfare Plan (PWP), in a paper for the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation (of which more later), points out that one of the main sources of anxiety from increased job mobility has been that access to "middle-class benefits" has often been part of the perks package of a particular job. It only compounds insecurity if these

benefits are lost with the job.

He, and others, argue for choice in the hands of the welfare consumer. If there is to be rationing, why not let the consumer make the decision rather than the Government or the local GPs?

This might help to tackle the Government's complaint that consumers have ever-rising expectations of what should be on offer because they have no idea of what it costs. If consumers could see a transparent relationship between what they pay into the system and what benefits they get out, they are more likely to accept the need to make their contribution. And, it is argued, they will gradually move away from dependency on the state in an ethos of taking some responsibility for their futures.

Frank Field argues that a more personalised system may even make people more likely to pay more of their disposable income on public services and welfare insurance because they see the direct benefits. There is mistrust of the National Insurance system where government collects and allocates considerable pooled resources and yet, the perception is public services remain inadequate and taxes have still been raised.

Mr Field has an interesting spin on the current debate about the black hole in the Government's tax revenues.

He believes that the shortfall is proof that the British people are already engaged in a tax revolt, using their ingenuity to avoid tax or taking advantage of life in the black economy.

Giving more power to the welfare consumer is the leitmotif of a plethora of current proposals for reform from the private sector and academia, and from Mr Field's Personal Welfare Plan.

More precisely, it completely refuses to ask what things, for the nation, are desirable, as opposed to what currently fashionable gimmicks are feasible.

Of course, that is always the case with the Civil Service way.

They argue that the electorate and Parliament are constitutionally responsible for objectives. They merely report on practicalities. But individuals then have the choice to build up a store of invested value in what he calls the PWP. This would be a personal fund, tax privileged like a pension fund or a PEP but available for a wide range of services, including education, health care, pension or other benefits: a ration book full of vouchers.

Largely as a matter of ideological choice, he would prefer that PWP's are voluntary.

Clearly, he thinks that core benefits would eventually be set at an "uncomfortable" level to act along with tax breaks, as a real incentive to consumers to go private.

Frank Field would progressively replace the means-tested system with compulsory, universal, second-tier pensions and a compulsory new insurance system. Labour says it is with Mr Field on a lot of his ideas. He has no idea whether something or nothing will happen if Labour wins.

But he warns: "The growth of individualism is not going to be arrested by talk about rebuilding the community. Welfare has to be shaped so that individual wishes can simultaneously promote new senses of community."

Unthinking the thinkable at the Treasury

Robin Marris offers a post mortem on last week's leaked document

Whatever the outcome for the beggars and authors of last week's infamous "Treasury testament", the Treasury will have been left permanently changed.

The reactions of the current Chancellor and the Shadow Chancellor, who wrote in *The Times* yesterday, are remarkably similar. Behind Kenneth Clarke's allegedly "inept" reaction surely lies his recent stated belief that the fundamental aim of economic policy (and hence the Treasury) is to raise living standards and provide secure employment for all the people.

If such aims were mentioned anywhere in the document (which I have not seen) they must have had so little emphasis that none of the many writers who claim to have read it noticed them.

And that is the clue to the real significance of the document: not what it says but what it apparently leaves out. To describe it as "thinking the unthinkable" is quite wrong. What, in fact, it does, by gross omission, is unthink the thinkable.

More precisely, it completely refuses to ask what things, for the nation, are desirable,

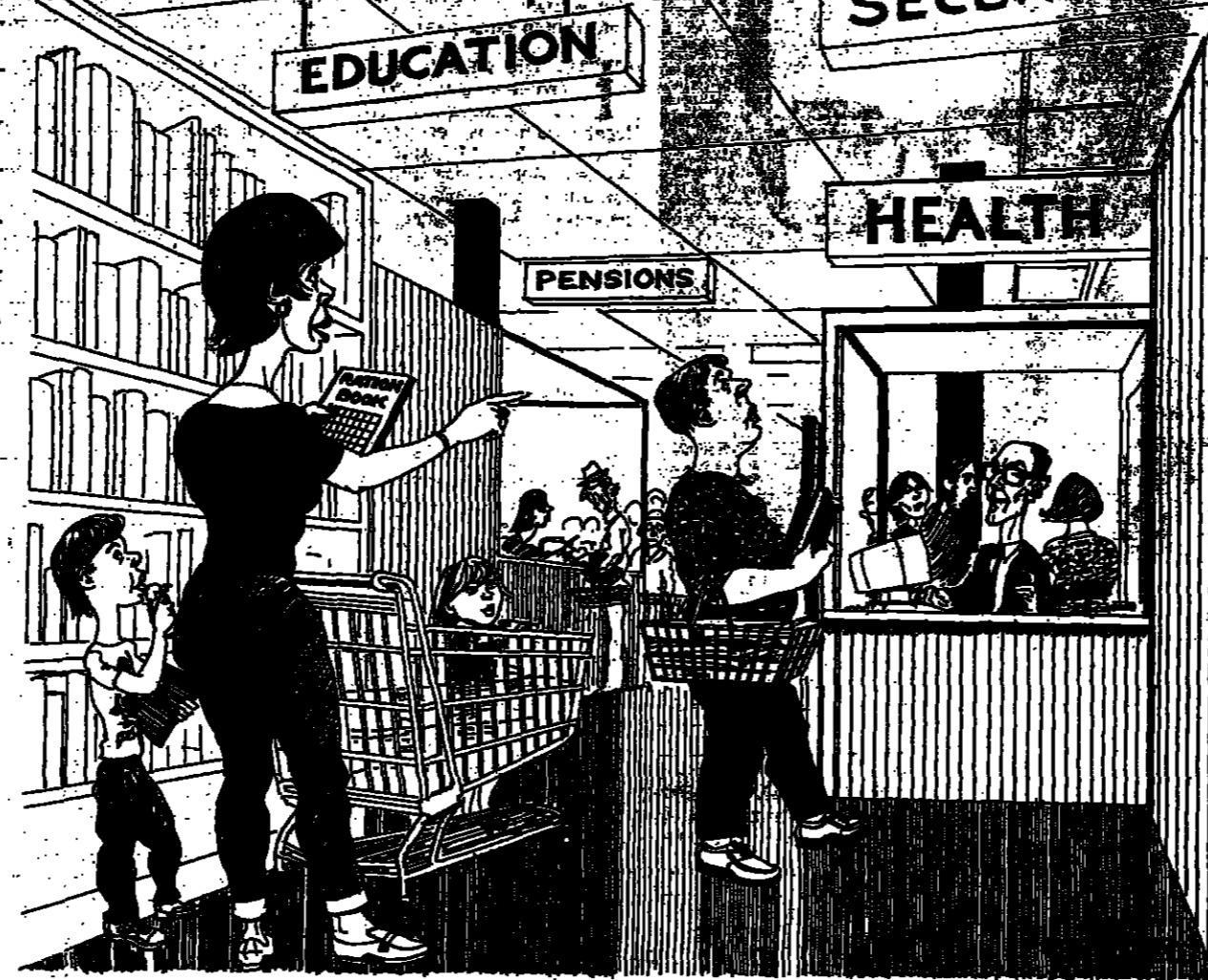
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whose political strength derives from *de jure* control of not only public finance but also monetary policy. I am not necessarily opposed to the concentration of power, for experience shows that it is difficult for an economics ministry without operational responsibilities to have the clout it should have.

So, the Treasury is effectively responsible for the whole macroeconomy in the short and long term. What is the fundamental long-term macroeconomic issue of today? It is not the welfare state. It is (as both Kenneth Clarke and Gordon Brown patently understand) the macroeconomic situation that is causing the increased cost of the social security safety net.

And what is the cause of the cause? Insufficient economic growth. And where in the "testament" is that discussed at all? Apparently nowhere. It is not so much like Hamlet without the Prince as like a bath without water. All this gives ample excuse for Mr Brown to reform the Treasury. It would be astonishing if Mr Clarke didn't feel the same.

Robin Marris's book, How to Save the Underclass, will be published by Macmillan in the autumn. Hardback £35, ISBN 0333669495; paperback £12.99, ISBN 0333669509.



Bank of England accepts need for greater openness after Barings scandal

When the Old Lady's slip starts to show . . .

and recommendations are summarised by the accountancy firm thus:

□ Maintain the Bank's supervisory style, where supervisors exercise informed judgment within approved standards and guidelines.

□ Link the standards and processes of supervision more explicitly to the objectives of supervision and promulgate those objectives more widely.

□ Establish a systematic approach to the supervision process, including a formal periodic risk assessment of each institution.

□ Enhance the effectiveness of the existing supervisory tools, in particular prudential information and reporting accountants' reports.

□ Make more effective use of information technology to capture, manage, analyse and present the wide range of supervisory information.

□ Upgrade the experience and skills of supervision and supervisory (S&S) staff through, inter alia, increased training based on a core curriculum and the recruitment of more people with specialist knowledge or skills.

□ Implement quality assurance throughout S&S to en-

sure standards are being adhered to and to foster the spread of best practice.

In its report last year into the collapse of Barings, the Board of Banking Supervision, an independent arm of the Bank, recommended that the Bank should establish an overarching quality assurance

function. The new quality control mechanisms are aimed not just at improving the Bank's own surveillance and supervisory roles. They are just as much about telling the 500 banks authorised to take deposits or do business in the UK that their watchdog is keeping a close eye on them.

In future all bank directors and senior managers must know what is going on in even the farthest flung parts of their global banking operations.

The defence that they did not realise something was wrong is no longer acceptable. The Bank's Review of Supervision, which sets out the radical restructuring plan, says: "To emphasise the importance of maintaining effective internal controls, the executive officer and the chief financial officer might be asked to submit an annual statement to the Bank of their opinion as to whether effective internal controls have been maintained and whether Banking Act requirements and policy guidelines have been complied with."

Professionals, such as external auditors, are also expected to take clearer responsibility for the figures they compile on behalf of clients. The report states that, subject to guidance from the Auditing Practices Board, auditors might be asked for a statement attesting to the effectiveness of the bank's internal controls.

The prudent meetings

that the Bank holds with its charges, described as "an important part of the supervisory process" will be "more focused and challenging". The Bank continues: "The Bank considers that one important response is to strengthen through further training, the technical, interviewing and presentational skills of some of the supervisors. A more effective risk assessment process

should improve the structure of these meetings."

Information technology (IT) will also play a key part in the Bank's new supervisory regime. Arthur Andersen said:

"There is no strategic vision for S&S and the consequences have been fragmentation in systems development and sub-optimal information management. These factors, together with a shortage of proper training, has led to a user population who are dubious of the benefits of IT and frightened by its use."

The Bank said it will detail a new IT strategy "likely to involve substantial additional spending over the next five years and will be accompanied by extensive retraining for all relevant staff".

But perhaps the most fundamental change signalled by the Bank yesterday is the one least documented. It is the acceptance that for too long the Bank of England has been seen as the secretive Old Lady of Threadneedle Street who never gave even a glimpse of her petticoat, let alone her ankle. Now she wants everyone to be aware that the Bank is alive and kicking and has sharp nails.



Michael Foot, left, the Bank's director of banking supervision, with Howard Davies

ACCOUNTANCY

Tax transparency on pensions

A change in rules could bring funds to Britain, Roger Leslie argues

An important step forward for the UK fund management industry took place last month and could lead to a substantial inflow of funds into the UK.

The Inland Revenue approved regulations that seek to tackle one of the longest-standing administrative burdens faced by multinational companies—their inability to pool the assets of pension funds in different countries without incurring additional tax costs. Until now, they have had the thankless task of operating the funds in separate countries rather than enjoying economies of scale. The pension fund pooling vehicle (PFPV) could change all that for the better.

To understand the need for a PFPV we have to outline the problem it seeks to solve. For years, multinational companies reluctantly accepted the cost and inconvenience of their pension fund administration. Then, in 1992, several interested parties started the ball rolling on pooling. Ashurst Morris Crisp, the firm of lawyers, and Watson Wyatt, the firm of actuaries, began discussions with the Revenue and Customs and Excise. Ernst & Young, became involved later. On June 19 this year, a Revenue press release and three sets of regulations



Roger Leslie backs pension fund pooling arrangements

gave detailed rules for pooled investment funds.

In most countries, the assets of approved pension schemes generate tax-free income and gains in their own jurisdiction.

A UK pension scheme investing in UK stocks and shares can reclaim any UK taxes deducted on dividends and interest. If that same scheme invests in Australia it may be possible to reclaim any Australian tax deducted on dividends and interest, depending on the terms of the tax treaty between the two countries.

In the case of multinationals, there may be pension schemes in a dozen or more countries. Ideally, each scheme wants to recover as much tax as possible. While this can be time-consuming, most multinationals have developed systems to accelerate the tax claims.

The status quo for such multinationals is to have pension schemes managed and administered on a country-by-country basis. Within each country, it may well be possible for a scheme to invest in a pooling arrangement. In the UK, the obvious pooling arrangement is the exempt unit authorised unit trust, but this is open only to UK schemes.

A multinational ideally wants to pool the assets of its worldwide pension funds.

Such a pooling arrangement should save management and administration costs. It seems an obvious arrangement for a multinational and rather begs a question as to why there are very few such arrangements.

So what is UK solution? The PFPV is a pooling arrangement or collective investment vehicle that is totally transparent for all UK tax purposes. In other words, so far as the UK

tax authorities are concerned, it has no UK taxable presence and is completely see-through.

The significance of this is the removal of the additional tax layer otherwise introduced by a pooling vehicle. Once that is achieved, the multinational is looking at cost savings in management and administration without extra tax costs.

The UK solution seems obvious and is a genuine achievement. The legal structure is very much down to John Watson, of Ashurst Morris Crisp, and the UK and international pension aspects to Ian Skinner and Susan Douse, of Watson Wyatt. The Revenue and Customs must take credit for the serious attempt to promote the UK as a place for pension assets.

Ernst & Young's involvement is to try to persuade tax authorities worldwide to accept the tax transparency of the PFPV. There is a precedent, of sorts, in the US Common Trust Fund, which is accepted as tax transparent by tax authorities in several countries. Nevertheless, our task will take time, as will the ongoing legal and international pensions issues, so we will not see a PFPV up and running this year. The combination of the tax transparent structure and the UK investment management industry may well result in a very substantial inflow of funds to the UK.

The author is a tax partner in the UK Investment Management Group of Ernst & Young

The missing figure in balance sheets

COMPANIES embrace the use of derivatives. They are the great and safe way of covering yourself against risk. They are complex. They have moved in 15 years from being rocket science to commonplace. And they can be used without anyone having the slightest idea that the company is using them. Even the owners of a company, the shareholders, may not have an inkling of whether their company has quietly restructured its asset base into a shadow company standing behind the public one.

What derivatives are known for are disasters. And these have been based on great and enduring human failings. If Charles Dickens were alive today, he would be writing sagas with derivatives at their heart.

There is something about derivatives that takes away the link between someone's actions and their impact for commonsense. When Japan Airlines lost £1 billion in 1994, it lost it on a technique which could not, in any circumstances, have achieved what was intended.

The disaster was not down to complexity. It

was down to a simple suspension of commonsense.

Other companies find other ways of doing it. You can mix a combination of deception and an uncomprehending and inept management and end up with a Barings-style disaster.

There are two problems here. First, derivatives and their use are obviously seductive. There comes a time when a "what if" light comes on in someone's head. This is similar to your emotions on hearing which horse has won the Grand National. It seems obvious that that was the one you would have chosen. The "what if" line of thought allows someone to see that a particular bet, for example on a currency movement which has turned out, with hindsight again, to have been obvious, would have brought in several million. "It could have been us," thinks a normally level-headed chief of treasury.

Then another step is taken in the logic. This profit can be made without all the usual mind-numbing processes of squeezing more from your business. To make a few million through financial instruments does not involve changing the culture in customer care or a four-year programme installing software to bring your global systems into line. Profits can be lifted without much more than the equivalent of a strop to the local betting shop. No wonder people find it seductive. It takes great courage for a chief executive to tell the

tors—have spent years arguing themselves into cul-de-sacs about any number of abstruse points. And with the publication yesterday of an international discussion paper on leases are about to do so again.

At the drop of a hat, people will argue about historical costs, about rules versus principles, or the number of accounting angels atop a corporate pin. Yet a much greater problem lurks, completely unseen, behind the accounts of most of the household names in the country. To say it is extraordinary is an understatement. That is why the need to put the new guidance on disclosure into voluntary practice immediately is so important. And why the discussions of the accounting angles should be treated as urgent.



ROBERT BRUCE

Out and about with Wadia

JIM WADIA, managing partner at Arthur Andersen, is famous for his empty desk. Often the most cluttered he has is it a paper cup of water. And, according to a new management tome, the policy extends wider in the business. In *The Success Culture*, by Malcolm and Lesley Munro-Faure, Wadia is quoted as one of the gurus of our time. Perhaps the best advice he

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

hands down is that "it is more fun meeting clients than being in internal meetings and discussing management controls". With the consulting arm, Andersen Consulting, in the throes of one of its periodic efforts to flee the Andersen's coop you can see what Wadia is getting at.

Carpet CAP

EVEN accountancy firms are wondering about becoming

Euro-sceptics. Baker Tilly, in its latest bulletin, reports on calculations made by Cavalier Carpets in Blackburn, based on the annual cost of the common agricultural policy. The company reckons it would be cheaper to cover every square inch of the European Union with best-quality carpet. Who said that accountants do not come up with useful financial information.

Wider net

THIS INTERNET stuff is getting out of hand. Coopers & Lybrand claims that it gets some 250,000 "hits" every month on its web site. They cannot surely all be after the renowned cricket information and the cartoons. So Coopers has expanded it. You can now check its code of best practice in auditing, for example. That should pull them in. Sample it on <http://www.coopers.co.uk>

ROBERT BRUCE

IT HAS always been argued that one of the barriers that

blocks more women becoming partners in accountancy firms is pregnancy. Price Waterhouse obviously takes this seriously. It has started weekly pre-natal aerobic classes in the swimming pool of its London headquarters.

Opportunities

EVEN accountancy firms are

considering the provisions of even more tax treaties than before. In short, the pooling arrangement may cost more in additional tax than it saves in costs.

So what is UK solution? The PFPV is a pooling arrangement or collective investment vehicle that is totally transparent for all UK tax purposes. In other words, so far as the UK

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

Player (Name)	Runs	Wickets	Total
Bateman (001)	1151 (120)	151 (12)	1302
G F Archer (002)	352 (120)	355 (12)	697
C W J Avery (004)	600 (69)	600 (69)	1199
M A Aziz (005)	436 (120)	459 (12)	895
K J Barfoot (007)	745 (104)	745 (104)	1490
M R Berron (008)	1150 (109)	1150 (109)	2300
G Steven (009)	1150 (109)	1150 (109)	2300
D A Stenkarin (011)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
N E Bowler (012)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
A D Brown (014)	321 (120)	321 (120)	642
D Byas (019)	1326 (120)	1326 (120)	2652
J D Cawthron (024)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
M J Church (018)	247 (120)	247 (120)	494
P A Clark (022)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
G R Cowdrey (023)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
J P Crawley (021)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
C D Crowe (022)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
R D Davies (025)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
T S Curtis (024)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
J A Dalby (025)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
R J Davison (027)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
M H Fletcher (028)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
R J Handcock (040)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
R J Handcock (041)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
A N Haynes (042)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
G R Haynes (044)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
D M Hedges (045)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
M W Giddings (034)	650 (11)	650 (11)	1290
N A Grieves (028)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
G D Green (029)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
K Greenfield (037)	518 (109)	518 (109)	1036
A Habib (051)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
J H Hancox (052)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
T H Hancox (040)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
R J Handcock (041)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
A N Haynes (042)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
G R Haynes (044)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
D M Hedges (045)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
A J Hollies (047)	202 (42)	202 (42)	404
N H Hunt (048)	202 (42)	202 (42)	404
S H Iqbal (049)	202 (42)	202 (42)	404
I Jaz Ahmed (050)	202 (42)	202 (42)	404
Investment of H&S (051)	202 (42)	202 (42)	404
S J Laker (052)	202 (42)	202 (42)	404
P Johnson (053)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
D M Jones (054)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
V Kambala (055)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
M A Kendall (057)	445 (109)	445 (109)	890
G J Lester (058)	445 (109)	445 (109)	890
W G Khan (059)	317 (59)	317 (59)	634
N V Kohli (060)	317 (59)	317 (59)	634
J D Larkins (061)	317 (59)	317 (59)	634
M N Latrell (062)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
S G Law (063)	1942 (465)	1942 (465)	2406
D A Leitch (064)	1942 (465)	1942 (465)	2406
N J Lenham (065)	475 (58)	475 (58)	950
J B Lewis (066)	157 (58)	157 (58)	314
N L Lloyd (067)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
G D Lloyd (068)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
J Longley (069)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
M A Lynch (071)	307 (58)	307 (58)	614
G J Macmillan (072)	307 (58)	307 (58)	614
D L Maitland (073)	307 (58)	307 (58)	614
S V Martin (074)	561 (109)	561 (109)	1122
P M Maynard (075)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
A P McGrath (076)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
A J McRae (077)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
R R Margemore (078)	771 (58)	771 (58)	154
T M Mather (079)	1243 (120)	1243 (120)	2486
H Morris (081)	764 (58)	764 (58)	152
J E Morris (082)	378 (58)	378 (58)	756
R S M Morris (083)	152 (58)	152 (58)	304
M D Morris (084)	152 (58)	152 (58)	304
K Morris (085)	152 (58)	152 (58)	304
T J G O'Gorman (086)	152 (58)	152 (58)	304
D E Peake (087)	152 (58)	152 (58)	304
J D Quinn (088)	152 (58)	152 (58)	304
J L Rutter (089)			

Equities rally after early falls

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.



■ FILM 1

Breezy stuff: the tornado effects of *Twister* are effective, but that's about all



■ FILM 2

Rainbow, which Bob Hoskins directs, gives the family movie an original twist



■ FILM 3

An offer you can't refuse: the exhilarating *Godfather Part II* is back on the big screen



■ FILM 4

The lifestyles of New York yuppies are wittily debunked in the entertaining *Denise Calls Up*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown mourns the senseless waste of human life at the hands of the special effects in *Twister*

Blow hard, with a vengeance

Since *Twister* concerns tornadoes, you expect a few things to go with the wind. Cars, houses, cows, barns, a drive-in movie showing *The Shining*, an oil-tanker truck a small town: they all get whirled, shaken, or reduced to rubble by the special effects demons at Industrial Light & Magic.

Two things need to be said straight away about this summer blockbuster from the brains that made *Jurassic Park* and *Speed*. The effects are convincing, and give further proof of the huge advances that computers have brought to the manufacture of illusions. But where are the human beings? True, we spot some specimens on the ground: meteorologists and tornado freaks, among them a husband trying to get his wife to sign divorce papers. (Bad timing, this.) But neither the dialogue nor the low-voltage cast make these characters significant. Their function is tornado fodder: human debris to be flung across Oklahoma.

When the characters are not being sucked into the air, they bicker or shout. Helen Hunt, as the scientist striving to push a data-collecting gadget called Dorothy inside a tornado's spiral, bickers with Bill Paxton, the husband awaiting her signature, or with rival scientist Cary Elwes. Back-up groups of tornado nerds sit crammed into trucks chasing tornadoes along the back roads, screaming "Go, go, go!" at each other. None of this is riveting.

Downgrading the players for technology's greater glory is nothing new for executive producer Steven Spielberg, or his co-scenarist Michael Crichton. But the damage is more extensive in *Twister*; for this is a far more ambitious affair, directed by Jan De Bont, the cameraman who raced to the top of his new profession when he made the sleeper hit *Speed*. In *Speed* we could never predict the adventures of Keanu Reeves's bus on the LA freeways; but we all know what tornadoes do, and in *Twister* they do it time and again. Without any human ballast, the spectacle grows tedious.

True, the sight of a cow twirling through the wind introduces a poignant and surreal note, although De Bont's team prefers the more mundane thrills of buildings and cars shattered and scattered. And for all the digital expertise of the special effects, there are still signs of corner-cutting. Odd how these tornadoes plump for isolated buildings and fields; when an entire town is laid waste, we pointedly see the aftermath, not the devastation, in

progress. *Twister* may have earned nearly \$230 million in America, a country whose tornadoes have generated their own myths and subculture. But the film looks a lot less exciting viewed in the land of rain, grey skies and Michael Fish.

The shadow of *The Wizard of Oz* is hard to dispel this week. Following *Twister*'s Dorothy, the data-collecting gadget named after Judy Garland's heroine, we now reach *Rainbow*, a film partly developed at Ealing Studios but shot in Montreal; a fantasy

Fading colours are not the only novelty. *Rainbow* was shot in Digital High Definition, a video process that allows greater flexibility and value for money, especially when integrating special effects. The results, transferred to 35mm film stock, lack the sheen we expect from material shot on celluloid, but what we lose in polish we gain in the camera mobility and immediate impact that video technology brings. This is undoubtedly the summer's most unusual family offering.

Denise Calls Up, a first feature by a promising new American independent, Hal Salwen, is another flawed film. Its material is stretched too thin; its ending hobbles; you feel like strangling Sylvia Miles, in a cameo as a screaming aunt. But so much is funny, and the central conceit so timely and resonant, that this very modern romantic comedy deserves the most kindly attention.

Salwen's characters are New York workaholics whose social lives take place entirely through telecommunication.

They converse by phone, by fax, by laptop; they never meet face to face, and if a get-together is planned you can guarantee that no one will show up. Swamped by work, they explain — although probably they were too fearful to expose themselves to the perils of human contact. Even the great peaks of life, like birth, sex and death, are experienced indirectly. Alanna Ubach's Denise needs a sperm bank's services to get pregnant.

You do not have to be a smart New Yorker to appreciate the film's joke. Look around: within a few years, whole lives will be led on the Internet, and babies will be born with their ears glued to a cellular phone. But the very topic of the film makes its treatment difficult. How do you build conflict when one character never shares another's space? How do you reveal the workings of characters who spend so much time in hiding? Salwen does not have all the answers, but his technical dexterity and knack for writing one-liners help to minimise the film's problems.

The strain is eased, too, by a modestly smart production design and an agreeable cast,



"In *Twister*, people are tornado fodder: human debris to be flung across Oklahoma"

RADIO: Peter Barnard on Radio 4's recollection of a great humiliation

Why Suez was not cricket

ONE of the beauties of the huge and burgeoning network of radio stations in Britain is that, unlike television viewers, most listeners are able to remain sublimely indifferent to this summer's sports extravaganza.

I am of course aware that Radio 4 listeners who struggle to get FM are unimpressed with these sentiments, especially with a Test match starting today on long wave, but at least a dedicated sports network — Radio 5 Live — means that the evenings elsewhere are blessedly sports-free.

The material's structural problems were only solved once Coppola merged both movies for his television version in 1977. But the cinema screen is still the best place to taste Coppola's visual feast. Blood, bullets, street festivities, domestic heartbreak: moment by moment, you watch enthralled.

ca withdrawing financial support from the Aswan Dam project. Nick Clarke's programme *The Crisis* had an official in Selwyn Lloyd's Foreign Office saying that the policy was to free the canal "by negotiation, with war as a last resort".

Historians were unlikely to find much that was new but through interviews with those in the Egyptian, British, American, French and Israeli governments of the time we learn much about the mindset that led to war.

Nasser had nationalised the canal ostensibly as revenge for Britain and Amer-

Britain as a colonial power. A conspiracy with America and Israel was one thing; the failure of this alliance, heaping humiliation upon the British, was something else.

As with so many watersheds in history, there is much to learn from anecdote. Thus there was a lovely moment in *The Consequences* when Samir Raafat, an historian, recalled how members at Cairo's Giza Club stopped playing cricket as a way of indicating that British domination in the Middle East had ended.

Wherein lies a salutary lesson for suffering long-wave listeners. They will one day awake to find no cricket on their beloved wavelength and they will know that Britain will never be the same again. Forty years later, expect a whole programme marking the event.

Twinkle, twinkle, little toes



Lord of the Dance Coliseum

Michael Flatley does not enter, he explores on to the stage in swirls of red smoke. His first sequence of frenetic, eye-blurring Irish dance steps raised an ecstatic roar from the audience. But then he is the Lord of the Dance, the hero and entire reason for the show which has now reached London as an alternative to *Riverdance*, that other Celtic phantasmagoria of which Flatley was also once the star.

So much depends on his nimble legs that there were anxious moments when a torn muscle threatened to substitute an understudy for *Lord of the Dance*'s Coliseum opening. In performance, Flatley is the centre of a deafening storm of sound and fury that takes tackiness to undreamt-of heights. He gets to wear the glitziest costumes from a company wardrobe of startling vulgarity — especially for the women, all big Nashville hair and tarty dresses. He gets the role of shining defender of good against evil in a ludicrously inflated pseudo-mythical story that tries to glue the

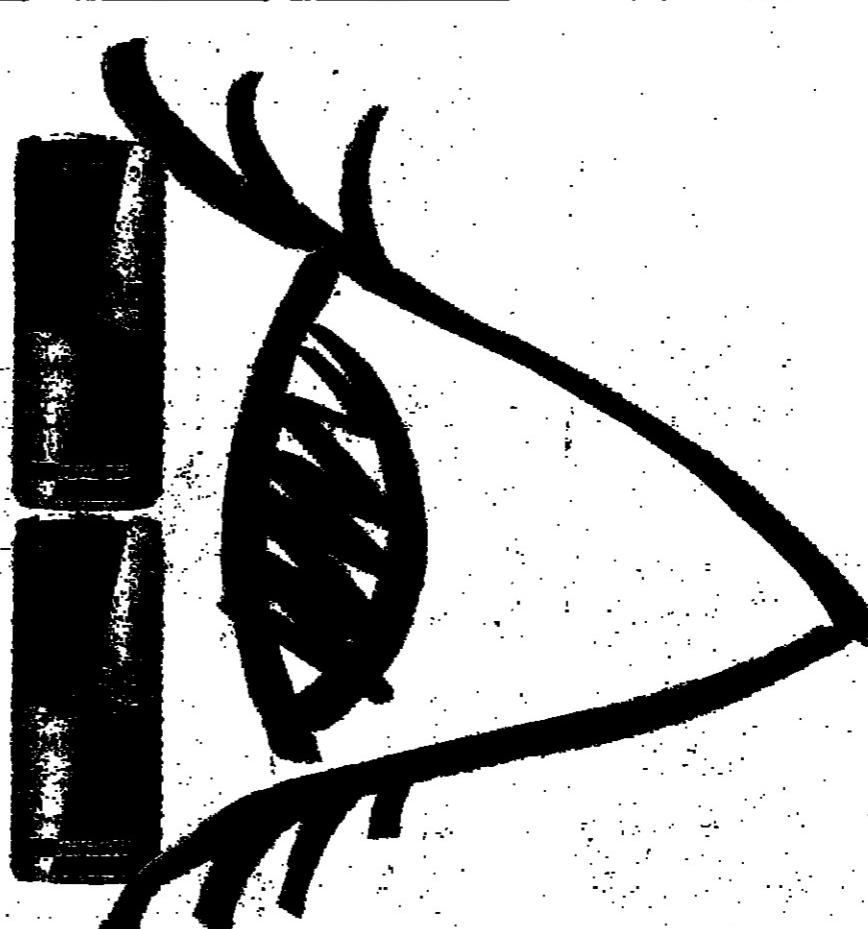
evening together. He gets to dance all the male solos, except for a couple allowed to Daire Nolan as the invading Dark Lord, Don Durkin, a kind of Irish Darth Vader, whose soldiers in sci-fi masks and black overalls look like *Star Wars* mechanics.

(man) inundate the very core of your body, while Patrick Woodroffe's rock-concert lighting plays with raw colours and piercing searchlights. Ann Buckley as Erin, the Goddess, sings lifingly, but about what? Bernadette Flynn and Gillian Norris vie for the dance lord's favours although, given their outfits, I am surprised he was tempted.

The 32 other dancers form wonderfully drilled leg-lifting, shoe-thundering lines, their traditional Irish grammar loosened up by some Flatley innovation (albeit not as much as I had expected). But they are not glamorous enough to cover up a general sense of penny-pinching and making do; and instead of stressing Flatley's own phenomenal charisma and courage through contrast, I thought the awfulness around him actually dragged his performance down.

Clearly, few in the first-night audience agreed. The throbbing rhythms, the electric energy — the sheer overall — produced a foolproof formula for hitting some collective atavistic nerve that has mature, normal-looking adults jumping to their feet and screaming in paroxysms of Manymana. The Coliseum has never seen anything like it.

NADINE MEISNER



CAUTION: DO NOT DRINK WHEN YOU WANT TO SLEEP



■ THEATRE 1

A new RSC play, *The General from America*, delves into US history with mixed results



■ THEATRE 2

Lust, ancient style, comes to the Gate with a new version of Boccaccio's *Decameron*



■ MUSIC

Beethoven's Choral Symphony is stunningly played in period style under John Eliot Gardiner



■ TOMORROW

Queen of the ballads: Sinead Lohan leads the celebrations at the Cambridge Folk Festival

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on a slight portrait of a namesake; plus Boccaccio in rude health

Traitor to the Americans a patriot for me

Few, if any, Americans share my first name, regarding it, I suppose, as the focal counterpart of the mark of Cain. When I worked in America, people would sometimes confirm my suspicion that they didn't like me by making the rather glaring Freudian slip of introducing me as Benedict Arnold.

So I have long had a soft spot for the great American traitor — or, as I like to think, British patriot. Surely there is a case to be made for a man denounced in Congress at his death as "the most nefarious man America has known, justly hated and shunned by decent men of all nations".

If so, Richard Nelson has not made it as effectively as his record for the RSC promised. After all, he is the author of *Some Americans Abroad, Two Shakespearean Actors and New England*, all of them subtle shrewd plays about the frayed cord that still vestigially links Britain with the navel of his native America. But his Arnold saga strikes me as a moderately absorbing chronicle play with a moderately challenging role for James Laurenson as Arnold.

For fellow English people who bear uncontentious names, like Tarquin or Medea, I should perhaps explain exactly who Arnold was. He was an exceptionally able, tough and daring general in what I suppose I must call the American War of Independence. It was thanks to him

that the key battle of Saratoga was won by the rebels. But, for reasons still disputed by historians, he changed sides. Indeed, he would have delivered West Point, which he commanded, and George Washington, who was visiting it, to our boys had not British muddle stymied him.

The General from America
Swan, Stratford

that Nelson does not inspect matters political clearly enough or look far enough into matters psychological for us to begin to decide. His Arnold speaks passionately of his love for the American landscape and claims to be betraying his countrymen for their own good — but where is his inner confusion and struggle? Laurenson simply doesn't get enough opportunity to use the blend of emotional power and raddled looks that nature gave him.

Actually, I suspect the play will be remembered for Nelson's cynicism about his nation's origins. He attempts to balance this by bringing onstage arrogant anti-Americanism — "cruel, God-forsaken people" — in the form of a homosexual English commander played by John Woodvine.

But this is skimpy, unconvincing stuff. If I were an American, not Benedict, I would be more struck by the talk of factionalism on the American side, of the attempts by the politicians to unseat Washington, and of the "speculators, embezzlers and stock-jobbers" doing nicely from the war. If Nelson does not succeed in mythologising Arnold, at least he demythologises him?

True, all these questions surface in Howard Davies's production, which begins with the hanging by rebels of a collaborator, introduces us to Corin Redgrave as an embattled

MARYL KINGHILL

"Was Benedict Arnold greedy for the British shilling? Did a young wife in love with English culture influence him?" James Laurenson and Jay McInnes in *The General from America*

Trench warfare of the sexes

The Decameron Gate

birdsong and we are transported into the countryside.

The cast, most of them young and many only recently out of drama school, alternate between narrating a tale and playing roles in one another's. The simulation of sexual congress is far more realistically done than in *Voyeur*, and we are agreeably closer to it.

Once again, the interior of this theatre reveals its flexibility in a design by Conor Murphy that excavates a trench almost the full length of it, and places a double row of benches for the audience around the sides. Stout planks bridge the trench and are moved about by the cast to become sloping walls, the roof of a tomb and so on.

At the start of the evening most of the cast are lying down there, victims of the Black Death; they emerge for Pampinea's introductory speech, after which the lighting becomes gentler, the plague-bell is replaced by

flagons of wine and caressing hands to help us through it. On the whole the men's performances are better than the more conversational style of the women. Joan Grifield and Matt Patress each have striking presence and expressive voice.

JEREMY KINGSTON

you get the picture.

What governs Ward's choice of tales is far less clear, as is the purpose of his enterprise. Some of the erotic events have no modern counterpart. A lascivious friar pretending to be the Angel Gabriel might have a wobbly parallel in one of today's pseudo-religious cult leaders, but it does not exactly spring to mind when watching the scene.

Ward presents as an example of the perfect spirit of love what I consider an odious tale of stupid sacrifice (Federigo and the falcon). This one is directed as straightforward, lengthy narration but, unlike the original listeners, we lack

the true spirit of Dizzy Gillespie now inhabits the pockmarked frame of trumpeter Lester Bowie, whose centrepiece concert with his Brass Fantasy was the highlight of the weekend. Decked out in his habitual white surgeon's coat, Bowie led his ten-piece brass group through a sequence of breathtaking variety and virtuosity, demonstrating conclusively why they enjoy unrivalled popularity on the international touring circuit.

Bowie has replaced those

of his star players of the last decade who have moved on with equally effective individuals, and his repertoire still juggles Whitney Houston and James Brown numbers with new pieces, such as E.J. Alton's *Journey Towards Freedom*, standards such as *Birth of the Blues*, and even snatches of Puccini.

With the exotic percussion of Farnamou Don Moye heavily featured, alongside the French horn of Vincent Chancey and trombones of Frank Lacy and Louis Bonilla, Bowie has brought new breadth to his band by adding a three-piece West Indian steel band to his troupe, throwing a Caribbean swagger into his already intoxicating rhythmic mix.

Rhythmic complexity was the focus of the closing concert which was given by the French trio of Louis Sclavins, Henri Texier and Aldo Romano. Sclavins's composition *Dolphy* was a sincere tribute to his major influence on bass clarinet, and his other composition, *Vol*, was an outing for his soprano sax to less familiar territory, where he coupled the high volume distortion of Peter Brötzmann with the facility of Anthony Braxton in a devastating solo. The heartbeats of the trio was Texier, whose virtuous bass playing (complete with echo effects) dominated Romano's compositions drawn from African influences.

As the audience squeezed out into the narrow, cobbled streets, most of the talk was still of Bowie's concert and his spine-tingling version of Billie Holiday's *Strange Fruit*.

No less effective after six years in their repertoire, Earl McIntyre's arrangement still offers the band scope for a passionate account of the lynching scene in the chilly landscape of Moye's ethereal percussion, punctuated by the trumpets screaming like lost souls.

ALYN SHIPTON



Classical tail: Myriam Acharki and Matt Patress in Nick Ward's erotic and gruesome *The Decameron*

CONCERTS: Four homages at the Proms; fine period-instrument Beethoven at the Barbican

For their forebears

BBC PO/Sininsky
Albert Hall/Radio 3

ALL four composers in Tuesday's Prom were represented by pieces paying homage to their predecessors, making for an exceptionally rich parade of musical invention. But nothing in the imaginative programme was more interesting than the new work, Hans Werner Henze's Three Pieces for Orchestra, based on piano pieces by Karl Amadeus Hartmann, receiving its first British performance.

Hartmann's original piano sonata in four movements of which Henze dropped one, was itself conceived as a tribute written in 1945 in memory of victims of the Holocaust. His music incorporates fragments of traditional Jewish melodies and workers' songs, and its late Romantic language is underlined by Henze's arrangement for large orchestra. The grief-laden first movement, *Pietà*, is given dark, murky colours, in contrast to the more crisply orchestrated and scherzo-like *Reveille*, which concludes the set. Hartmann and Henze reserve their

strongest emotions for the central, angry *Marcha funebre*. The BBC Philharmonic under Vassily Sinaisky gave a committed performance.

Sinaisky, the orchestra's new principal guest conductor, showed his versatility throughout the evening, which opened boisterously with Elgar's orchestration of the *Fantasia and Fugue* in C minor by Bach. It is marvellous music in its own right, magically orchestrated: Bach distilled through Elgar in the wistful opening, and transformed in the rollicking fugue, complete with full strings fluttering harps and cascading winds.

Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, a tribute in 24 variations to the violinist-composer's 24th Caprice, flowed smoothly under Sinaisky's baton. It is not often in this piece that you find conductor and pianist on the same interpretative wavelength, but here they were, with Nikolay Lugansky, the sparkling soloist.

Though not an overriding inspiration, Bach features in Brahms's Fourth Symphony, supplying a chaconne theme used in the variations of the finale. Sinaisky moulded a warm, fluid performance of the outer movements, but was more persuasive in between: a steadily unfolding Andante and incisive, dancing rhythms in the Scherzo drew attention again to this conductor's meticulous ear for detail.

JOHN ALLISON

In Ninth heaven

ORR/Gardiner
Barbican

THE Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique's "historically-aware" recordings of the complete Beethoven symphonies have won it, and its conductor John Eliot Gardiner, universal accolades. Currently on a European tour of Beethoven's *Leontine* (to be performed at the Proms later in the season), the ORR gave us a foretaste with a performance of the Ninth Symphony at the Barbican. This extraordinary work, the last movement of which is as long as many a complete classical symphony (at least in ponderous, old-school versions), presents a Herculean challenge for even the greatest modern symphony orchestras, but the ORR and the Monteverdi Choir brought off a performance that was technically near-flawless and compellingly assured in interpretation.

Gardiner displayed a sense of absolute control, knowing exactly where the score was going, precisely where to let the music breathe without jeopardising the rhythmic and harmonic

tensions and expectations set up by Beethoven. Take, for example, the scherzando movement with its chattering winds punctuated by phantasmagorical interjections from the timpani and ardent outbursts from the strings: Gardiner achieved an organic, clear-headed reading that lacked nothing in either humour or passion. The rest of the symphony was equally well paced, the final *Ode to Joy* taking fire from the sparks scattered by the contrabassoon and the incandescent woodwind writing to capture quite superbly the catharsis inherent in Schiller's poem.

Gardiner was helped by the lithely polished playing of the ORR and, above all, the remarkable discipline of the Monteverdi Choir. They had already shown off their paces in an equally brilliantly-conceived rendition of *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*, presented by way of an overture to the Ninth, which opened with the most perfectly balanced and true *pianissimo* I have heard for a long time: they thoroughly deserved their ovation.

I would not wish to hear any other choir in the Ninth. A starry team of soloists was led by the young German baritone Franz Hawlik, whose voice combined power and quality. He could not resist breaking the (modern-day) soloist's code to join in the final chorus — but, then, it was the kind of performance to sweep one away.

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Marked out by destiny: Enoch Powell on the burden of a son condemned to live in the shadow of war-time leader Winston Churchill

The child is father to the man; so runs the adage, but when the real father happens to be someone uniquely marked out by destiny a peculiar interest attaches to knowing how the son fares. Winston S. Churchill, MP, has written a life of Randolph Churchill (1911-69), his father and the only son of Winston, which bears upon that question. It is not his fault that the first part of the book turns out to be about Winston Churchill and the second part about himself.

The extracts from correspondence, especially between Winston Churchill and Randolph, presumably hitherto unpublished, supplement the growing volume of published memoirs by contemporaries and earn for the author's work a distinguished place among Churchilliana. It is fascinating to trace, during the 1930-39 years of eclipse and expectation, while Winston yearned for a place in government, how he endeavoured to curb Randolph's propensity for fighting by-elections in opposition to National Government candidates — to the consternation of his father, still hoping against hope to be returned to government office despite opposition on India and rearmament.

Winston had no illusions about the handicap which Randolph's personality presented. He wrote: "It would in my belief be very injurious to me if you publish articles attacking the motives and character of Ministers, especially Baldwin and Eden, and I hope that therefore you will make sure that this does not happen; if not, I shall not be able to feel confidence in your loyalty and affection for me". This is far from the effusion of a doting father.

Churchill had already written to Randolph in December 1929: "Your idle and lazy life is very offensive to me. You appear to be leading a perfectly useless existence. You do not value or profit by the opportunities Oxford offers to those who care for learning... To these causes of dissatisfaction you add an insolence towards men and things which is rapidly affecting your position out-

HIS FATHER'S SON
The Life of Randolph Churchill
By Winston S. Churchill
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 81640 3

side Oxford and is certainly not sustained by effort or achievement". Randolph was undoubtedly a man of exceptional natural abilities particularly in journalism and as a war correspondent but the weaknesses of his personality foredoomed him to disappointment in the political field even though "while his father remained politically isolated, Randolph was utterly loyal to him and made himself his lieutenant in all his political battles". Randolph was haunted throughout

his life by his weakness for alcohol and an inability to finance his expenditure, which led him to avail himself generously of the opportunities for placing articles offered to him by his father's intimacy with the newspaper proprietors. The desire for money continued to be an obsessive preoccupation right up to the end of his retirement at East Bergholt, nor did he show the slightest disposition to accommodate his style of life to his resources.

Nevertheless, he apparently had the facility for retaining his friends. It is surely not unfair to quote the summing-up of his son and biographer: "Randolph had no idea how unpleasant and offensive he could be when he was drunk. By the time he was sober he had largely forgotten or become oblivious to what had passed. When in good form, he could be the best of companions, a brilliant con-

versationist, bubbling with wit and panache. A dinner hostess could be assured that, whatever else might happen, the evening would not be dull if Randolph was among her guests, and in a crisis there was no friend more loyal".

At the end comes the killing conclusion: "There was a limit to what even his friends could accept of the other side of his character".

Small wonder if the mirage of being adopted as a Conservative parliamentary candidate progressively receded.

So what is the answer to the question with which I opened this review? It is yes, but for being the only son of Winston Churchill his life would have been different and probably run a smoother course. The burden of being the son of the foremost war-time leader of the nation and the free world, not to mention the tradition of the Marlboroughs, created an environment in which the defects of Randolph's personality were exaggerated.

Whatever criticism can be made of this memoir to his father, Winston Churchill MP has produced an unvarnished picture. The biography is anything but a hagiography.



Flawed personality: Randolph at Waterloo Station (1930)

Love without wings

Anthony

Quinton on one woman's rich and varied life shared with the noted and the notables



Editor, journalist and American representative: Fleur Cowles and Cary Grant in the Palace Hotel, Madrid (1957)

In the 1930s the Ardath Cigarette Company issued a series of cards with their product called "In the Public Eye", featuring Bert Ambrose (band leader), Lord Derby (racehorse owner), Amy Johnson (aviatrix), Tom Walls (comedian) and so on. Fleur Cowles's *She Made Friends and Kept Them* looks at first sight like a prose version of the same project, being an array of brief accounts of notable people in politics, show business and diplomacy. But there is more to it than that. It is rather more like Norman Douglas's "autobiographical excursion" *Looking Backward*, in which he comments briskly on those whose calling cards he had accumulated over the years. At the upper, ideal limit of the scale is Aubrey's *Brief Lives*, another highly personal compilation.

In order to keep friends it is necessary not to be nasty about them in a way that comes to their attention. So this is for the most part a kindly book. Some of those included, like Otto Abetz, whose secret trial she attended, or Senator McCarthy, were not friends at all; others, like Evita Peron, soon came to be hated. But Fleur Cowles can be quite crisp about the

living. Nancy Reagan had her name taken by one friend "from the lowest ever for an American First Lady to know everything about any subject" and quotes the memorable description "a beautiful palace without central heating".

To keep friends you have to acquire them in the first place. For that Fleur Cowles had fine opportunities. Her first marriage to Gardner (Mike) Cowles, owner of *Look* magazine, of which she soon became the extremely effective associate editor, provided a central social position in public life and a journalistic springboard. She took advantage of both to hare about all over the place, interviewing anyone important she could get hold of. Her determination and readiness to face risks were clearly assisted by her good looks.

These seem to have helped to arrange five visits to Nasser — there is a picture of him being distinctly flirtatious with her in his home — and to cause Haile Selassie to be a diplomatic nuisance in order to coincide with her somewhere. She brought out a skintight aspect of Stafford Cripps. He admitted to her that at an early hour he had jumped into the embassy swimming pool in Washington naked.

Fleur Cowles had a successful career as a journalist. She raised the circulation of *Look* magazine to seven million. Her own paper, *Flair*, al-

though it lasted only a year, secured a legendary status it has not lost in the forty-five years since it gave up, in part for the quality of its content (Cocteau, Auden etc) but even more for its style of production: different kinds of paper, different sizes of page, inserted booklets, holes in the cover.

From ordinary journalism she went on to semi-official information-gathering and message-delivering. She was an observer at the Pannunjun truce negotiations, sat in on a conference about German reunification in East Berlin under an assumed name, and at a more elevated level, was appointed official American representative at Elizabeth II's Coronation by Eisenhower. This early American phase of her career came to an end in the mid-50s when she divorced Mike Cowles, married Tom Montague Meyer and settled in England. Since then she has been busy painting (roses, magic tigers), writing substantial books on the Perons and on Salvador Dali and has contributed to and served on

the boards of innumerable philanthropic bodies.

Although not at all laced with acid these recollections are full of sharp observations. General MacArthur's wife called him "General MacArthur", not "Doug" or "dear". The estranged first wife of Anthony Eden, asked by the Soviet Ambassador Malik what she thought of Adlai Stevenson, said: "Mr Stevenson is just like Anthony Eden. Both are excellent Number Two men." Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, whose marriage to Chiang was only a formality, was besotted by Wendell Willkie. Rose Kennedy, rising from the dinner table after an unfortunate question about Chappaquidick, stamps out saying, "if my sons are born to be murdered, they might as well be President first."

There is no message in Fleur Cowles's book, but there is an underlying ideology. It is the Rooseveltian liberal internationalism of the great journalistic stars of 1939-45, above all John Gunther and Edward R Murrow. It explains Fleur Cowles's evident lack of enthusiasm for Mrs Thatcher. This book, for all its richness of detail, she contends, is a feast of memory and she explains how she commits items to it. But the real secret may lie in this parenthetical sentence, "my husband and I annoyed the Baron because neither of us takes any alcohol, ever."

SHE MADE FRIENDS AND KEPT THEM
By Fleur Cowles
HarperCollins, £20
ISBN 0 00 255389 8

When it comes to the crunch

Martin Rees

TIME'S ARROW & ARCHIMEDES' POINT
By Huw Price
OUP, £18.99
ISBN 0 19 510095 6

Local phenomena would, more likely, proceed in obedience to the "second law" regardless of what the large-scale universe did, (at least until a final "crunch"). But if cosmology doesn't determine the "arrow" of cosmic evolution, what then does?

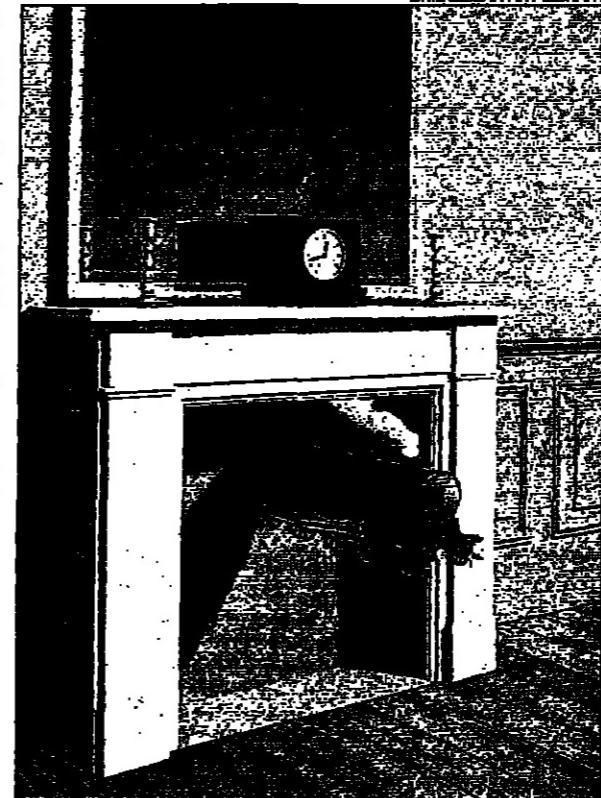
Conundrums like this, on the interface of physics and philosophy, are the theme of Huw Price's challenging book. He argues that, though we are inexorably "trapped" in time, we can achieve clearer insights from an imaginary perspective that is "outside time". From this "Archimedean" viewpoint, as he calls it, our universe appears as a static four-dimensional entity (the "block universe") where the directions of "past" and "future" are as interchangeable as "left" and "right". Our "world lines" would be more disordered at one end (what we call the future) than at the other end (what we call the past). But in a "block universe", the hard thing to explain is any "ordered" state. It is no more puzzling to find order at the "start" than at the "finish".

The asymmetry between past and future may be linked to the expansion of our entire universe. The cosmologist Thomas Gold, supported briefly by Stephen Hawking, claimed that that the arrow of time was linked so closely to the cosmic expansion that it would reverse if the universe were contracting. For any conscious beings in a contracting universe, a film showing individual atoms bouncing off each other would look more or less the same whether it was run backwards or forwards.

Physicists describe the general trend towards disorder by the "second law of thermodynamics" — C. P. Snow's ancient touchstone of scientific literacy: the world changes and decays, irreversibly, even though the underlying laws are indifferent between past and future.

If our universe were eventually destined to recollapse, would all structures and evolutionary trends really blur and wash out as the moment of turnaround approached? This idea seems repugnant to common sense.

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Physical enigmas: Magritte's *Time Transfixed* (1938)

In Price's perspective, everything is linked to the future just as to the past. Causal influences can act backwards in time, as well as forwards. So we should not be surprised to observe "teleological" effects — just as seem to happen if a film runs backwards, and just as would need to happen, if Gold were right, when the cosmic expansion was slowing to a halt.

Price is unfazed by the notion that the future affects the past. Indeed such "backward causation", he claims, offers a clearer insight into quantum theory. This theory works marvellously: most scientists apply it almost unthinkingly. But it has its "spooky" aspects, which many thinkers from Einstein onwards have found hard to stomach. For instance, an action can have immediate consequences at a location too remote for ordinary causal contact. If past and future are on an equal footing, this seeming paradox dissolves.

Price is a philosopher with a real grasp of fundamental physics. He offers an original slant on some profound issues, where our understanding has advanced little since the time of St Augustine. His book is not an easy read, but should trigger lively debate about whether he has introduced new paradoxes as stubborn as those he claims to exorcise.

Sir Martin Rees is the Astronomer Royal.

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Fate shuffles the cards

Robert Nye

THE SOLITAIRE MYSTERY
By Jostein Gaarder
Phoenix House, £15.99
ISBN 1 85758 009 6

PUTTING down *The Solitaire Mystery* I remembered that Lewis Carroll liked to relax by playing his musical-boxes backwards. This was the first clear thought to cross my mind for hours. *The Solitaire Mystery* is not a difficult book to put down.

It concerns a small boy called Hans Thomas who sets out with his father on a journey from Norway to Greece. They are in search of the boy's mother, who left home to find herself some eight years before. Now the father has spotted her face in a Greek fashion magazine, and decided that she needs rescue if she is not to "drown in a fairy tale". He is a bumbling sailor who works in a garage and collects jokers from packs of playing cards but who has

"always been utterly absorbed by the eternal questions". This means that their flat stops many times while the father smokes cigarettes and evacuates his mind. The boy sensibly prefers buns and fizzy drinks.

Alas, father and son have not gone far before they meet a Swiss dwarf who gives Hans Thomas a magnifying glass and an old German baker who gives him a sticky bun in the middle of which he finds a miniature book entitled *The Rainbow Fizz and the Magic Island*. This book tells the story of a shipwrecked sailor and a lot more dwarfs, and we are treated to its text, turnabout, as Hans Thomas reads it with a magnifying glass, alongside the boy's account of the quest for his mother. All the chapters are headed with the names of playing cards, and there are 52 of them, matching the endless games of solitaire which Hans Thomas

plays as he sits in the back of the car.

Everything in this novel is meant to fit, so that some profound connection is implied between real life and the tale of the dwarfs in the sticky-bun book.

DOES the book write itself as the boy experiences the work around him? If so, what other then predestination can account for the fact that while each incident mirrors what is happening to Hans Thomas, he can flick ahead and see chapters which have already been written?

I think there is less to all this

than meets the eye. In any case, the novel's conclusion is both fittingly anti-climactic and pure sticky-bun. When they get to Greece the father tells the boy the myth of Oedipus. Then they find the mother and she comes meekly home after asking Hans Thomas if he can forgive her and despite his cruel response: "It depends. Have you thought of how many games of solitaire a boy can play in eight years?"

Jostein Gaarder is a philosophy professor from Oslo. His *Sophie's World* attracted many readers by combining a mystery story with a history of philosophy. The trouble with

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Pursuer of the aesthetic, or Nazi propagandist? Leni Riefenstahl starring in *The White Hell of Pitz Palu* (1930), a mountain saga reflecting the Aryan myth.

Of pure ice and celluloid

Leni Riefenstahl didn't menstruate till she was 21. Such tardy lunar maturation does not necessarily mark a kindly sluggish emotional development, but it does accord with the troubled sexuality and protracted infantilism from which so many leading Nazis suffered.

Not that, according to Audrey Salkeld, Riefenstahl was a Nazi. No, sir. She never joined the NSDAP, a fact which — so this idolatrous biographer seems to believe — acquits her of all the charges that have been informally levelled at her down the years. Salkeld is not, of course, alone here. A series of de-Nazification tribunals — empowered sheep considering the careers of wolves — came to the same conclusion. So have countless style-fixated film critics and school-of-Peterhouse thinkers who are lovably capable of separating the "aesthetic" from the moral, the medium from the message, technique from subject.

It is an approach which, in the case of Riefenstahl's work, captioniously overlooks its purpose — at best it betokens indifference towards a hideously successful attempt to harness the most modern form of representation in the service of a self-proclaimed return to pre-enlightenment despotism.

The case of Leni Riefenstahl is not analogous with those of Céline or Pound or Henry Williamson, fellow travellers of the distant right, self-made pariahs, but artists whose work, while it may be seen in retrospect to be infected by the germs of their aberrance, is free-standing. Riefenstahl's wasn't. The films for which she will forever be remembered are

Expressions of the Reich: Jonathan Meades on the life of Hitler's 'official' cinematographer

"official" art, that is to say instruments of propaganda, advertisements for a terrorist state.

They aren't about Nazism, they are pure expressions of its mystical morbidity, preposterous romanticism, satanic ceremonial and hero culture. There is no gap between subject and witness. Riefenstahl was Hitler's poodle. As a cinéaste she was made by his patronage and his (and Rosenberg's and Himmler's) terrible, childish determination to bend reality to fit myth.

Like Speer she would have amounted to very little in a democracy, but the Third Reich provided wonderful opportunities for the amorally opportunistic loyalty was

everything, talent nothing. In the latter years of the Weimar Republic Riefenstahl had been another actress in *berglime*, mountain sagas which, unusually for that era, were filmed on location and whose appeal partly derived from the audience's knowledge of the dangers that had to be faced in making them. Their appeal to the ideologies of the NSDAP was different: it was something to do with the attainment of the unattainable, the purity of peaks and ice, their congruence with myths of the Aryan descent from the pole and so forth.

These films were a sub-division of the genre which was abbreviated as *blubo*: *blut* and *boden*, blood and soil. Salkeld is mistaken in her belief that blood and soil was a Nazi creation — it was merely one of the crank cults they co-opted. Similarly the *Ordensburg* were not SS schools but run by Ley's *Arbeitsfront*; and Anthony Eden was not a member of the Diplomatic Corps. Still, what are a few details when there's a reputation to be salvaged?

Bergfilme were works of tedious kitsch, but then so was just about everything. The NSDAP approved of Pevsner's dictum that there was no such thing as Nazi art; seems unacceptable. Hitler was a fan of the one film Riefenstahl had directed,

The Blue Light, and she set about falling in with him at the first opportunity. He typically played her off against Goebbels, who attempted to seduce her in her car in the Grunewald. Her rejection of him was a rare instance of discrimination.

Goebbels considered her difficult and vacuous. Certainly her "masterpieces" are unremittingly dumb. As a director Riefenstahl was Busby Berkeley with a political and racial purpose. *Triumph of the Will* is spectacularly bereft of narrative or thought: it is all martial patterns and repetitive liturgies. It leaves us in no

doubt that Nazism was a primitive, paganistic religion rather than a political phenomenon. There are moments when you are enjoined to think that this is what Aztec ceremonial must have been like.

Riefenstahl is the last major figure of the Reich still living. Her life is defined by those 12 years and her life since then has been duly blighted. As Salkeld puts it with her characteristic sensitivity: "... there was an orchestrated campaign to stop her working. Many of the activists were Jewish. We should seek to be sure in our minds if this represents a natural and acceptable watchfulness that the memory of the Holocaust is not diminished, or whether it has become polarised into a more specific and personal vendetta."

It may also be the case that even those who discern "genius" in her propaganda would agree that her capabilities were rather specialised and that a tyrant tends not to come along more than once in a lifetime. Still she would doubtless have done well in commercials and rock videos.

This signally unsatisfactory book has the reek of an official biography, even though its author seems to have enjoyed no access to her subject; now, that's what I call forelocking. Salkeld is an alpinist and owner of "Britain's most comprehensive archive on mountaineering and exploration". She seems to believe that Riefenstahl's physical bravery and all purpose outdoorsiness are exculpatory traits rather than corroborations of the anti-urbanism and anti-intellectualism which were the *sine qua non* of preference in that green autocracy.

The story of Kaspar Hauser, the "wild boy" of Bavaria, excites the same sort of interest as that of the Grand Duchess Anastasia. This mysterious foundling turned up in the streets of Nuremberg on the second day of Pentecost, 1828. He was dressed as a peasant, could scarcely speak or walk and carried a letter addressed to the captain of a squadron of light horse garrisoned in the town.

Initially he showed a violent aversion to anything but bread and water. Later, he was able to explain that for as long as he could remember, he had been kept in a dungeon. His sole "companions" were two small wooden horses and a wooden dog, which he clearly believed were alive. Hauser appeared to be in his middle teens, and possessed unusual faculties — he could "feel" someone pointing at him from behind, and was able to read and distinguish colour in total darkness.

Could he be the crown prince of Baden, son of Napoleon's adopted daughter Stephanie de Beauharnais? Why should an eccentric English milord, the fourth Earl of Stanhope wish to become his legal guardian and talk of taking him home to Chevenix?

Who was the stranger who lured him to the deserted Orangerie in Ansbach, promising news of his mother, and then stabbed him fatally in the chest?

There are no definitive answers to these questions, despite the vast literature written about Hauser (A 1927 bibliography listed 3,000 books and 14,000 articles). Herman Melville compared him to Billy Budd; Verlaine wrote a poem about him; his fate also worked powerfully on the imagination of Rilke, von Hofmannsthal and the novelist Jakob Wassermann. He was the subject of Werner Herzog's 1974 film *Jeder für sich und Gott gegen Alle* and in 1987 the American singer Suzanne Vega included a song about him in her album *Solitude Standing*.

Golo Mann, accurately if unfeeling, described Hauser's life as "the finest detective story of all time". The whodunit element — a prince robbed of his birthright? — has certainly always had strong appeal, although there have also been those who stoned the evidence less romantically. Andrew Lang, in his *Historical Myths*, published in 1904, inclined to the nonsense view that Hauser was "a humbug", although he was prepared to consider that he might be some sort of "ambulatory automaton" — someone with a mania for straying away and delusions as to identity.

Hauser's story was first made widely known in Europe by Anselm von Feuerbach. The father of the philosopher

Feuerbach was a distinguished jurist and the author of the *Bavarian Criminal Code* of 1813. He called his account *A Case of a Crime against the Soul of a Human Being*. Long considered a masterpiece of German judicial literature, it is also a compelling piece of story-telling. This is the first complete English translation.

Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson recognises that the fascination with Hauser shifts with intellectual fashionability. For some he is interesting as a child of nature — a flesh and blood version of Rousseau's Emile. Peter Handke's 1967 play, on the other hand, was about the tyranny of language and developed the thesis that Hauser's socialisation was a form of torture where Feuerbach believed Hauser's soul had been murdered by his incarceration. Handke argued that he was destroyed by his acceptance into society.

The only surprising thing about the extensive psychiatric literature is that Alexander Mitscherlich's article *Oedipus und Kaspar Hauser* appeared as late as 1950. Four years ago, in *The Kaspar Hauser Syndrome of "Psychosocial Dwarfism"*, John Money tweaked the story into shape for the 1990s: *Deficient Structural, Intellectual, and Social Growth induced by Child Abuse*.

This is also the main focus of Masson's interest. A former head of the Freud archives, he has previously written about the emotional lives of animals (*When Elephants Weep*) and fluttered the doves of psychoanalysis with a controversial book called *The Assault on Truth: Freud's Suppression of the Seduction Theory*.

Masson prefaches the Feuerbach text with an introductory essay exploring the issues raised by the Hauser case. There are also several interesting appendices. One examines the legend of wolf children (did the author of *The Jungle Book* know about Hauser?). Another translates for the first time the proclamation issued by the Mayor of Nuremberg two weeks after Hauser's arrival — the first published document with a bearing on the case. Masson has also discovered a copy of notes made by Hauser's first teacher, Georg Friedrich Daumer, long thought lost.

He remains puzzled that despite the psychiatric interest, Freud never refers to Hauser in either his letters or his published work. For Masson, the story is "a crucial document in the debate over memory and reconstruction." He believes that the key to the endless fascination of the "Lost Prince" lies under our noses — "the abuse to which Kaspar Hauser was subjected, while practically unique, is not really so foreign to our own experiences."



Kaspar Hauser (1875)

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Peculiar behaviour for a headmaster

Philip Howard

THE LAND OF LOST CONTENT
By Mark Peel
*The Penguin Press, £16.99
ISBN 0 14 02 8240 9*



Chevenix-Trench at Eton (1964)
into, but his Pains, his Diligence at those set times, made me think, he aimed at something beyond the Reach of humane Art and Industry."

AN UNPUBLISHED work by Isaac Newton on how to create "the true Elixir of the Philosophers" is being sold in the United States for \$42,500. The manuscript, giving a highly detailed alchemical recipe beginning with "sublimed" mercury, has not yet been studied in detail by scholars.

Born in 1642, Newton studied at Trinity College Cambridge, for 35 years before becoming Master of the Mint. Alexander Pope summed up in a couplet the usual view of him as an early rationalist, pioneering scientific methods: "Nature and Nature's Laws lay hid in Night: / God said: Let Newton be! and All was Light."

As well as writing the *Principia Mathematica*, discovering universal gravitation and inventing calculus, Newton did crucial work in optics, dynamics, astronomy and cosmology. But his alchemical writings — more than a million words, mostly unpublished — have been marginalised. Although he was not attempting to make gold, he did believe in the transformability of all matter. His instructions about what to do with the "spirit" read, in part: "Put it into a very pure Alembic in a great quantity, pur a head to it and distil in white vapours, which you ought to keep for it is our true Philos... shut it up very close and the Eagle will suck the Lion's blood."

In 1936, there was a great auction of Newton's papers, and many were bought for his old college. Manuscripts rarely appear on the market now. *This one* is not in his hand, but contains his detailed autograph corrections. After being displayed in London, it is being sold to a private customer by Buddenbrooks of Boston, Massachusetts. "It is being sold as a holy relic," says another dealer. "A page from the *Principia* would be worth 200 on alchemy," — which is putting an alarming price on his scientific thoughts.

The Cambridge economist John Maynard Keynes, who bought heavily

JIM MCCUE

APOCRYPHAL truths from Oxford. A recent inspection of the history faculty was determined to find some fault. After several impeccable lectures, the inspectors had to admit that the teaching was good, but added that the lecture room ceilings were too high. "Too high for what?" asked the faculty.

"Intimidatingly high."

Then came the turn of the English faculty. An inspector sat in on a tutorial. All was well, he reported, except that the don had departed from his lesson plan. He had not said that he intended to consult an information retrieval system.

Pardon?

"You went over to your shelves and took down a book..."

power? The answer does not matter, though this is the question that lingers in the popular memory about Chevenix-Trench.

But there were more positive aspects to his career, which can be seen as pilgrim's progress and comedy of manners as well as tragedy. Flogging faded away fast from Eton and the other public schools, partly warned by his example. And anyway Eton can be a turbulent college for its Head. The 25 housemasters are a cabal of proud barons, most of them worthy of being heads or dons themselves, and some of them rebellious at the incomer's authority. In his farewell speech to his housemasters, Robert Birley thanked them for shielding him from the garrulous Etonian parents.

The Provost (chairman of the governors) is a royal appointment (like the Head) and a mighty presence in residence breathing down the Head Master's neck. And the school is far too big for the personal touch.

A Victorian predecessor of Chevenix-Trench was asked whether he knew all the boys. "No," he replied grimly, "but they all know me." He could have added, flogging Dr Johnson's old joke, that their faces were not the parts of his pupils' anatomies he was most likely to recognise.

His biography shows that Tony Chevenix-Trench was also an inspiring and innovative teacher who saw even his ugly ducklings as glorious swans. Many of them and his colleagues loved and admired him. His book is written in magisterial pomp, so that cooking for head's dinner comes out as "culinary arrangements". And when a boy is asphyxiated by a falling window at Fettes, I wondered whether this might be a misprint for a falling Scottish widow. This is the life of a good teacher. Since Socrates, there has been no higher calling.

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CRICKET: RETURN TO FORM OF LEADING BOWLER CRITICAL TO HOME COUNTRY'S PROSPECTS IN LORD'S TEST

England look to Cork to thwart Pakistani flair

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S DETAILS

ENGLAND: M A Athman (captain, N.Y.), N. P. Parsons, G. Hick, G. P. Thorpe, M A Eatham, R C Russell, D G Cork, D D Salter, S J E Brown, A D Mullally

PAKISTAN (born): Wasim Akram (captain), Asim Sohail, Saeed Anwar, Izz Ahmed, Waqar Younis, Saeed Ajmal, Asif Mubariz, Rashid Latif, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis, Alta-u-Rehman.

Umpires: P Willey and S Bucknor (West Indies). Third umpire: J W Holder. Match referee: P van der Merwe (South Africa).

TELEVISION: BBC1 - 4.45pm (Olympic Groundsheet); BBC2 - 10.30am-3pm (with Olympics during lunch interval), 3.05-5.55pm, 6 pm-close (if necessary), 11.15pm-midnight (highlights). Sky: 8.30-10pm (highlights).

RADIO: Radio 4 (from 10.50am, long wave).

WEATHER: Cloudy start, dry and sunny.

indignity, when the formbook deems it impossible.

Recent examples prove the point. In the autumn of 1994, Pakistan, including eight of their likely XI today, lost a Test match in Zimbabwe by an innings, before rallying to win the next two. A year later, having beaten Sri Lanka by an innings in the first of three Tests, they lost the remaining two. They were then twice beaten heavily by Australia, only to win the final game against the odds.

So their recent Test record is variable, to put it kindly. They are the most volatile team in the world, a mirror of their people, whose reaction to a World Cup defeat by India was so extreme that at least one suicide ensued and a bitter, alarming spite was turned upon the captain, Wasim Akram, who had not even been fit to play.

Wasim survived the backwash with an endearing dignity and he is now building bridges here in England. Like Atherton, a conveniently-close friend through Lancashire ties, Wasim is sensitive to the need for a harmonious series between countries who have spent too long trading in acrimony. This, however, does not mean that it will be uncompetitive; no one familiar with these men could possibly confuse a desire for peace with an ambivalence towards the outcome.

The teams cannot easily be compared. Pakistan's bowling strength is unquestionably superior and their batting will proceed with dash and derring-do. "We will play positive cricket," Wasim confirmed yesterday, "and I expect there to be a positive result. There always is when we play at Lord's—and we usually win."

If, however, England concentrate on the traditional disciplines of five-day cricket, bowling uncharitably and aiming to bat for long periods, the opposition could be frustrated. It may not sound attractive but England's best chance lies in boring Pakistan to defeat.

There will be an interesting spread of predictions for the lunchtime score if Pakistan should bat first. Aamir Sohail and Saeed Anwar do not approach their opening role in the time-honoured manner and those who follow like to maintain the momentum. Pakistan could make 130 without loss in the first session; equally, they may go for five.

It is nothing new to be saying that Dominic Cork has an important job for England but the comment is tinged with concern, for he has not been bowling anywhere near his best. As his seam partners will be the two left-armers, Mullally and Brown, plus the all-rounder, Eatham, a trio with four Test caps between them, the significance of Cork returning to form is evident.

Ian Salisbury played the first and last of his seven Tests at Lord's, making his debut four years ago. It was also his most successful, producing five wickets, but he is a wiser and better bowler now and can expect plenty of work on a pitch that can be expected to turn later in the match.

This would not necessarily be to England's advantage, as Pakistan are still considering two spin bowlers, supplementing the whirling skills of Mushtaq Ahmed with Saqlain Mushtaq, the young off spinner, in a constantly-intriguing side. For many, the summer starts in earnest today.

But if at times England are in despair, how much more frustrating must it be to support Pakistan. The differ-

ences within the Test and County Cricket Board are as nothing compared to the moves and machinations that regularly prevent Pakistan from fulfilling their potential.

I observed this at close quarters in this test at Lord's in 1993 when Pakistan went there as holders of the World Cup and with genuine hopes of toppling West Indies. By the time the first Test started, those of them who had not already gone home were wanting to do so. It was hard to tell the real injuries in their ranks from the affected ones.

In theory, they make a much tougher proposition for England to tackle in the series starting today than India did. If one thinks of the Test season as comprising two halves of a golf course, par for the first nine against India could be said to have been 35. Whereas for the second nine against Pakistan it is more like 37. At the turn, England are one over, having begun with a birdie at Edgbaston but fallen away after that through failing to attack the flag. They dropped a shot against India at Lord's and another at Trent Bridge. Their game still lacks conviction.

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OLYMPIC GAMES: GREAT BRITAIN TEAM OUT OF LUCK IN THREE-DAY EVENT

Australia forge clear to retain gold at a canter

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR

IN ATLANTA



AUSTRALIA won their second successive gold medal in the Olympic three-day event contest yesterday by a convincing margin of 57.25 points. The team, the first to win back-to-back since Great Britain in 1972, had such a substantial lead that their last rider in the final showjumping phase, Phillip Dutton, on True Blue, could have knocked down each of the 12 fences and still secured gold.

The United States team took silver after two faultless showjumping rounds from Karen O'Connor, on Biko, and her husband, David, on Gilded. New Zealand, the favourites, took the bronze — their third successive Olympic team medal.

Britain, who had come with hopes of gold after their successes in the Open European

championships last year and the world championships in 1994, finished fifth. "It's depressing not to come home with a medal — we seem to be jinxed at the Olympics," Karen Dixon said.

Bridget Parker, the chairman of the selectors and a member of Britain's last gold medal-winning team in 1972, attributed it partly to bad luck.

"It's a disappointing result but Ian [Stark] was unlucky with his fall on the cross country. When Dutton and Andrew Hoy, on Darien Powers, produced two more clear rounds, their substantial lead was assured.

Only eight of the original 16 teams were left to contest the showjumping phase. Ireland, who were in fifth place overnight, had to withdraw when two of their horses were held over at the final horse inspection yesterday morning, so King will need at least a ten-point lead after today to have a realistic chance of a medal.

Australia had thought they were the unlucky ones initially. Matt Ryan, the reigning individual champion, had to withdraw from the team at the

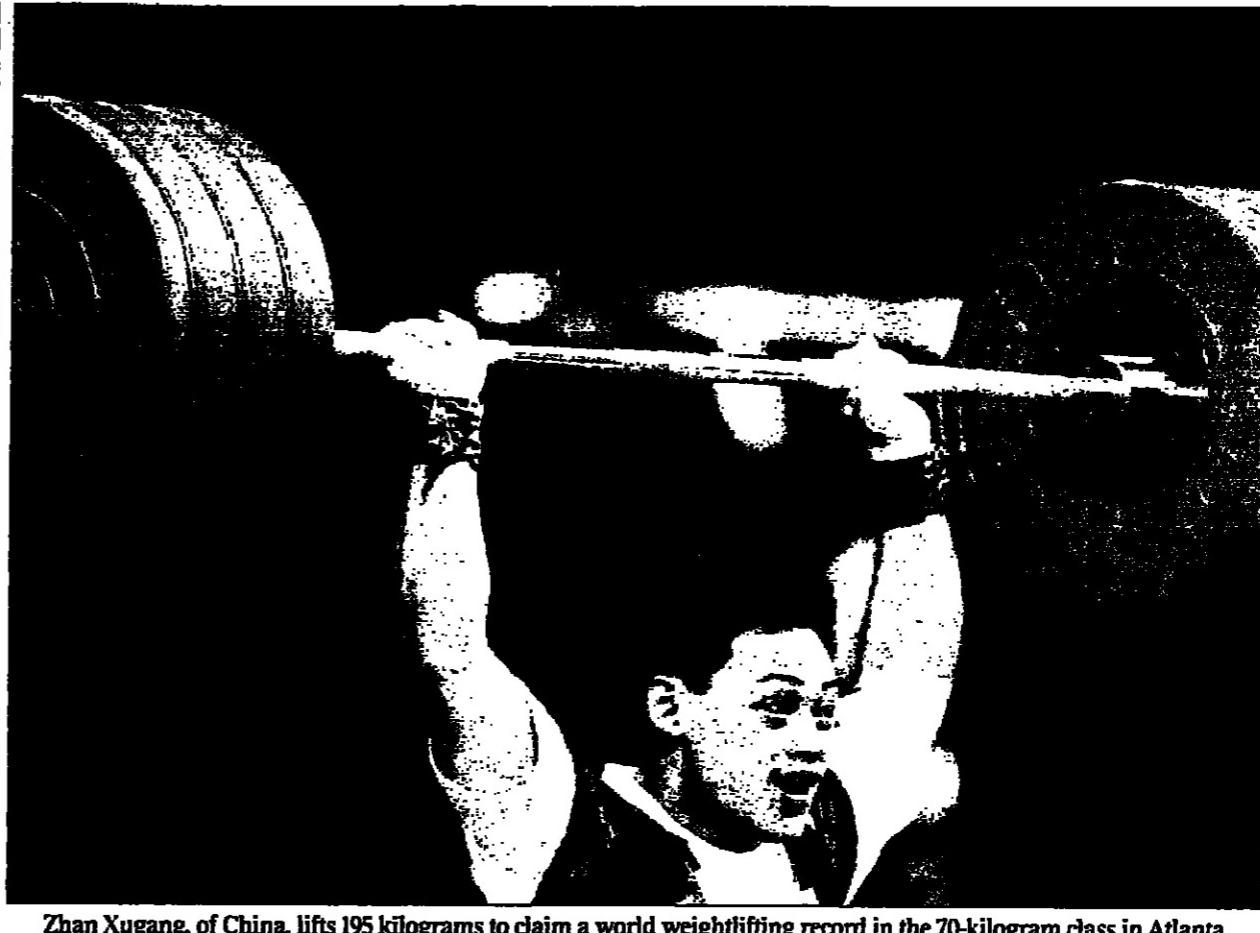
last moment when his horse was injured. He was replaced by the less-reliable Gillian Roltan, on Peppermint Grove, whose score, after two falls on the cross country, was the discounted one. But Wendy Schaeffer, 21, competing just nine weeks after breaking her right leg, paved the way for victory with her inspired clear round on Sunburst in the cross country. When Dutton and Andrew Hoy, on Darien Powers, produced two more clear rounds, their substantial lead was assured.

Schaeffer went clear again for Australia and Dutton, who was able to incur more than 60 penalties and still secure the gold, made just two mistakes. Britain's medal hopes now turn to Mary King, who attempts to capitalise on her outstanding dressage score on King William in the speed and endurance phase of the individual three-day event contest today. "I've got a good draw going early in the morning when it's cooler and it's very much within William's capabilities, but it's the sort of course where it's very easy to make a mistake," she said. King William's weakest phase is the showjumping, so King will need at least a ten-point lead after today to have a realistic chance of a medal.

course. Stark, on Stanwick Ghost, incurred a disappointing 15 penalties and William Fox-Pitt and Gary Parsonage hit one fence each.

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Zhan Xugang, of China, lifts 195 kilograms to claim a world weightlifting record in the 70-kilogram class in Atlanta

Fresh conquests beckon for Alexander the great

FROM JOHN GOODBODY



OF ALL the competitors in these Olympic Games, none is more frightening as aspect and awesome in physical ability than Alexander Karelin. The Russian wrestler stands 6ft 3in and weighs 21 stone, much of it across the shoulders, but it is his head that is so striking. He is shaved almost bald, has a battered face and hooded light blue eyes.

The world's wrestlers may have got accustomed to his appearance, but not to his ability. On Tuesday night, he took the super-heavyweight title in Greco-Roman wrestling for the third successive Games. He remains unbeaten since 1987.

Greco-Roman is the style in which no holds are allowed below the hips. Unlike freestyle wrestling, you cannot grab an opponent's leg. It is all upper-body contact. This does not stop Karelin from being exceptionally supple. He can stand upright and kick a chandelier hanging eight feet above his head, with one of his size 15 shoes.

Karelin says: "I do not like to seem immature. But if I am asked, I must be truthful. I see fear in the eyes of most of my opponents." This probably included Panovitis Pikirides.

His opponent in the final was Mait Ghaffari, of the United States, who entered the packed arena to the music from the film *Rocky* and excessive flag-waving. The American was so pleased with his performance in the semi-final that he ran several laps of the mat area, carrying his two-year-old daughter.

Ghaffari thought that he had a chance because the Russian had an operation on his shoulder in April. This was his first contest since then. But Karelin got the only point of the match in an early take-down. As he completed the move, he smiled. When his arm was raised at the end of the contest he smiled. His face suddenly transformed into a picture of genius.

For Ghaffari, it was a triumph. He had not been thrown. Jeff Blatnick, his predecessor as American super-heavyweight, said: "Fighting against Karelin, it is almost a victory if you do not get thrown."

Karelin was unable to use his favourite technique against the bulky American, the reverse body-lift. Karelin hooks his hands round the stomach of supine 19-stone opponent, who is face down on the mat, and heaves him as high as Karelin's own waist.

And then the Russian arches and hurls the unlucky man head over heels onto his back.

Ghaffari has often felt the power of the throw, hence his constant squirming towards the side of the mat during the bout. He has fought Karelin 21 times and lost 21 times. But the American is still positive. "Four more years — Australia, here I come. I am going for the gold," Karelin smiled. "I do believe there is a future for me out there," he said.

Badminton

Men's singles

FIRST ROUND: D Han (Kor) bt R Michaels (AUS) 15-14, 15-12; P Kooij (NED) 15-10, 15-7; Hidemitsu Kuroki (Jpn) bt D Korchok (USA) 15-12, 15-11.

QUALIFYING ROUND: Spain bt Canada 45-25; Poland bt South Korea 45-24; Romania bt United States 45-20.

SECOND ROUND: Hungary bt Germany 42-35; Russia bt Poland 45-33; Hungary 45-40; Poland bt France 45-42.

QUARTER-FINAL: Hungary bt United States 45-35; Russia bt Germany 45-37; France bt Cuba 45-35; Italy bt Estonia 45-38.

CORRECTION: From heats on Monday, winners in each race qualified for final, not as stated.

Men's doubles

FIRST ROUND: Spain bt Japan 45-35; France bt United States 45-35; Poland bt South Korea 45-44.

QUALIFYING ROUND: Russia bt Japan 45-33; Cuba bt Switzerland 45-35; United States bt South Korea 45-44.

SECOND ROUND: Hungary bt United States 45-35; Russia bt Germany 45-37; France bt Cuba 45-35; Italy bt Estonia 45-38.

CORRECTION: From heats on Monday, winners in each race qualified for final, not as stated.

Women's singles

FIRST ROUND: Spain (Sergio) bt N Hansen (DEN) 11-10, 11-12; A Sondergaard (DEN) w/D Koleva (BUL) 11-2, 11-2; D Julian (CAN) bt D O'Connor (IRL) 11-3, 11-2; S Hwang (Kor) bt S. Kim (Kor) 11-3, 11-2; H Mezu (Japan) bt M. Jean-Pierre (Fra) 11-2, 11-1.

QUALIFYING ROUND: Spain bt Japan 45-33; Cuba bt Switzerland 45-35; United States bt South Korea 45-44.

SECOND ROUND: Hungary bt United States 45-35; Russia bt Germany 45-37; France bt Cuba 45-35; Italy bt Estonia 45-38.

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Olympics must lose flab caused by junk diet

Those who have already spent too many long night hours watching wall-to-wall television coverage from Atlanta will sigh with weary relief as the real Olympics eventually begin tomorrow.

Enough of beach volleyball, enough of women's soccer, enough of team dressage. At last they will bring on the real athletes. As the fastest men and women in the world line up to do battle over 100 metres, we shall witness a struggle for genuine Olympic gold.

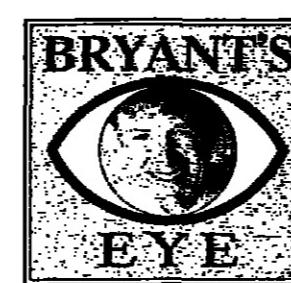
What we need is a definition of what really constitutes an Olympic sport and a drastic pruning of the events that do not qualify. The Games need cutting down to size.

Right back at the beginning of it all, in the first record of

the ancient Olympics in 776 BC, there was only one event — the stade race, a sprint of just less than 200 metres. Thirteen Olympiads went by before they added a second race, and many decades before the introduction of throwing, jumping, wrestling and boxing. The rest eventually set in when they added chariot racing.

In the modern Games every Olympiad sees more and more sports clamouring to get in. In Atlanta we have softball and mountain biking, and there is talk of ballroom dancing and women's wrestling making their entrance in Sydney.

Yet how you truly define an Olympic sport can be delightfully simple. If an Olympic gold medal is the greatest pinnacle you can achieve, if



there is no greater accolade in your sport, if no other tournament compares, then it is a true Olympic event.

Take the 100 metres. If this is your event, the Olympic title is the only one that really matters. You can lose every race in the years between the Games. Others can run faster. It matters not. If you win the gold medal you are hailed as the fastest human on earth. That is a true Olympic title.

Contrast this with tennis or baseball, soccer or cycling. These sports have their Wimbledon, their World Series; their World Cup or their Tour de France. If the Olympic tide is not the crowning glory, then you are talking about junk sport that clutters up the Olympic programme.

The Games, sadly, grow

venues, more tickets. The results so far have included an opening ceremony that lasted 4½ hours and saw two heart attacks in the arena, one of them fatal, and transport chaos so bad that Britain's top gold-medal hopes, Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, fled the shambles of the Olympic village. Other athletes have been so enraged by their treatment that they have resorted to hijacking buses to get to their venues.

The Atlanta problem is almost entirely one of size, and as things come unstuck it should at least give the organisers of the Sydney Games a golden excuse to cut out some of the peripheral rubbish.

It is not the first time that the Olympics have lurched down

the road to gigantism. In 1932 the Games were awarded to Los Angeles and the organisers made many innovations, including a purpose-built Olympic village and subsidised transport and food for competitors. A German, Carl Dier, haunted the games, notebook in hand, vowing that everything he witnessed would be done on a greater scale in Germany. The Berlin Games of 1936 were the most spectacular the world had ever seen.

Only five sports have been on the programme of every modern games since 1896 — cycling, fencing, gymnastics, swimming, and track-and-field athletics. Rowing was on the original programme in 1896, but rough seas caused its cancellation.

Of course, the criteria for taking part in the Olympics has changed dramatically, particularly since the Games gave up clinging to the amateur ethos that inspired the early days. Whether there is anything recognisable left of the original code, laid down by Baron Pierre de Coubertin a century ago, is open to debate.

To the world's viewing mil-

lions, the Games are still sport's greatest festival. But to too many of the competing sportsmen and women, it is not. Nobody could pretend that the American basketball Dream Team players will have focused on winning Olympic gold over the past four years, or that to the world's leading tennis players this is anything more than just another tournament.

But it is with the core sports, particularly track and field, that the Olympics becomes a showpiece and the medals begin to matter. This is when the years of training get focused into seconds of effort.

So bring on the 100 metres men — and let the real Games begin.

JOHN BRYANT

ATLANTA 96: THE COMPLETE GUIDE

The murder in January of Dave Schultz, the former United States Olympic wrestler, was a serious setback to the development of wrestling in the States. John du Pont, the millionaire, who has been charged with Schultz's murder, had used his wealth to support the nation's wrestlers and had set up a training camp in Pennsylvania on his 800-acre estate. He provided individual financial support to allow many of America's top wrestlers to train full-time, calling his squad "Team Foxcatcher". But while the United States waits for the trial of du Pont, there has been another bizarre twist in the saga. Recently, a local authority in Pennsylvania ruled that some changes to the estate, which are believed to have been ordered by du Pont after his arrest, were illegal. They include the construction of a guardhouse and a barbed-wire fence, the setting-up of some rusty bear-traps, and the posting of a sign at the front gate, which read: Foxcatcher Prison Farm. JG

HOT SPOT

Steve Redgrave continues his bid for Olympic history today when he and Matthew Pinsent compete in the coxed pairs semi-finals. Unbeaten for four years, the British pair will be expecting a better performance than in their first-round outing on Sunday. Redgrave is attempting to become the first Briton and the fourth sportsperson to collect four consecutive Olympic gold medals. TV: BBC1; from 1.40pm.

Single scullers, the loners of the Olympic Regatta, have had their privacy invaded on Lake Lanier. The mini-in-boats cameras which have been mounted on the rear of fours and eights in recent years, not always to the delight of the rowers involved, have, in the 1996 Olympics, spread to single sculling boats. Fisa, the international governing body, agreed to the innovation and informed the athletes some months ago. There are clear differences between cameras on the small sculling boats and the bigger eights and fours. On the 58ft long eight, weighing 94kg, the cameras are mounted on tripods. On the lighter 27ft sculling boats they are fixed to the rear decking, and the weight of the camera becomes more of an issue. Guin Batten, Britain's Olympic woman sculler, said: "When your boat only weighs 14kg, an extra kilogram is a real burden." From the television viewers' point of view, the cameras give a strange image that adds little of significance, particularly when covered in spray. MR

Yvonne McGregor still had a smile on her face yesterday although she was \$700 the poorer: the money had "disappeared" from her room the previous day. She is the most cheerful among a happy British women's team of six and the one most likely to win a medal. She holds the world one-hour record and is the Commonwealth champion. Today she starts what could be a four-day 3,000 metres pursuit competition. Officials have been generous to the women in requiring them to race only once a day during the elimination process to Saturday's final. McGregor is one of several in the squad who have been able to continue their careers after a successful athletic career as an international fell-runner and triathlete until an injury forced her to retire from athletics. Another former athlete is Chris Newton, who was told two days ago that he will be taking Chris Boardman's place in next week's road race. When Boardman won Britain's first gold medal in Barcelona, the teenage Newton was a county athletics champion. PB

At the end of the fourth day of the world championships in Rome in 1994, Chinese women had won eight gold, four silver and two bronze medals. By the close of the fourth day in Atlanta, the tally is one gold and two silver. The reason? The food was not suitable in the village canteen; the team had lots of youngsters; and there had been many false fire alarms at the dormitories. Could there be another explanation? "If I were a journalist and always asking about doping, I would find it boring," said Zhao Ge, the coach whose nation has produced 18 positive steroid tests. Perhaps China has discovered that being banned has its benefits. Take, for example, of the United States, winner of the 100 metres backstroke here, four years after his defeat in Barcelona by Mark Tewksbury of Canada, despite being the world record-holder. "I want to thank you for beating me," Rouse said to the retired Tewksbury before his race. "It's kept me in a sport I love for four extra years." CL

Reports: John Goodbody, Peter Bryan, Craig Lord

MEDAL TABLES

	Gold	Silver	Bronze		Gold	Silver	Bronze	
United States	9	12	3		Germany	0	8	9
Russia	9	5	2		Bulgaria	0	3	1
Poland	5	2	1		Greece	0	2	0
China	4	5	3		Brazil	0	1	2
France	4	3	6		Sweden	0	1	1
Italy	3	2	3		Austria	0	1	0
South Korea	3	1	2		Great Britain	0	1	0
Turkey	3	0	1		Finland	0	1	0
Belgium	2	1	1		North Korea	0	1	0
South Africa	2	0	1		Spain	0	1	0
Ireland	2	0	0		Uzbekistan	0	1	0
New Zealand	2	0	0		Hungary	0	0	5
Cuba	1	4	2		Bulgaria	0	0	4
Japan	1	2	0		Holland	0	0	4
Australia	1	0	5		Canada	0	0	2
Ukraine	1	0	2		Georgia	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	1		Moldavia	0	0	1
Armenia	1	0	0		Yugoslavia	0	0	1
Costa Rica	1	0	0	■ At end of Tuesday's events				
Kazakhstan	1	0	0					

Atlanta 1996: Total / Weather: sunny Humidity: 80% Temperature: 76F

You could not get away from them yesterday. Those seven grinning faces shone forth from every newspaper and were the talk of every television station. The United States women's gymnastics gold medal-winners, Kerri Strug, leg and encased in a plaster cast, had saved the team for an early evening victory at Planet Hollywood, upsetting Britain's Willis and Davis Moore. "If you had written that script, it wouldn't have been believable," Moore gushed. A film of the Kerri Strug story with Moore in the leading role? Best not give anyone ideas. Handicapped or not, however, even the likes of the ideal gymnasium's diet, "Spaghetti, please," Dominique Moceanu said. The team had to be up early, too, to appear on the NBC morning news programme, but there is still more work to be done today in the all-round event, and in the individuals on Sunday and Monday. There are some men competing somewhere, but no one has noticed yet. AL

As a rising young athlete, Salma Hissou could not help but admire the achievements of his Moroccan countryman, Khalid Skah. Now Hissou dreams of following in the footsteps of Skah, winner of two world cross-country titles and an Olympic 10,000 metres gold medal. Now he is almost there, he is not about to let sentiment stand in his way. Skah's father is dying of cancer. "Maybe he will die before the Olympics but I hope I can give him another gold medal at the end of his life," Skah said. Hissou was listening as Skah spoke emotionally in Atlanta about trying to retain his 10,000 metres title as a gift to his father. But Hissou was unmoved. He announced that, instead of opting for the 5,000 metres, in which he would have been the most likely challenger to Halle Gebrselassie, he has chosen the 10,000 metres. Concerned that he may not possess the speed required to win at the shorter distance, Hissou believes his better chance comes at 25 laps. If he cannot win, he hopes Skah succeeds. DP

Reports: Mike Rosewall, Andrew Longbottom, David Powers

TODAY AT THE GAMES

All times BST

BADMINTON: Men's singles, first round (19.00 and 01.00); men's doubles, first round (14.00 and 19.00); women's doubles, first round (14.00).

BASEBALL: Round-robin. Hofland v Nicaragua (15.00); Australia v Italy (20.00); Japan v United States (01.00).

BASKETBALL: Women's preliminary round: Pool A: Italy (15.00); Brazil v Japan (01.00); Canada v Chile (03.00). Pool B: United States v Zaire (17.00); South Korea v Ukraine (20.00); Cuba v Australia (22.00).

BEACH VOLLEYBALL: Men's and women's round-robin (14.00 and 19.00).

BOXING: Second round (bantamweight, welterweight and heavyweight; 18.30 and 01.00).

CYCLING: Men: Individual pursuit, sprint, trials (15.00) and final (16.40); sprint, second round (15.15) and repechages (14.00); sprint, first round (15.55) and repechages (16.30).

EQUESTRIANISM: Three-day event: Individual endurance (12.30).

FENCING: Men's team foil, preliminaries (16.00) and final stages (22.00); women's team foil, preliminaries (13.00) and final stages (20.00).

FOOTBALL: Men's team foil, preliminaries (16.00) and final stages (22.00); women's team foil, preliminaries (13.00).

GOLF: Men's team foil, preliminaries (16.00) and final stages (22.00).

HANDIBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Kuwait v Croatia (15.00); Switzerland v Sweden (19.30); United States v Russia (02.00). Pool B: Algeria v France (17.00); Spain v Germany (21.30); Brazil v Egypt (00.00).

HOCKEY: Men's preliminary round: Pool B: South Korea v South Africa (14.00); Malaysia v Great Britain (15.30); Holland v Australia (16.00); Sweden v Germany (16.30); v Great Britain (14.00); Holland v Germany (16.00); Australia v South Korea (22.30); United States v Argentina (01.00).

JUDO: Men's under 65kg and women's under 52kg, preliminaries (14.30) and finals (20.00).

ROWING: Men: Semi-finals: Coxless pairs (14.00); double sculls (14.40); coxed fours (15.20); single sculls (16.00). Women: Semi-finals: Coxless pairs (14.20); double sculls (15.00); single sculls (15.40).

SHOOTING: Men: 50-metre free rifle prone, preliminaries (13.30) and final (16.00); 10-metre running target, preliminaries (14.00); 25-metre rapid fire pistol, preliminaries (15.00) and final (19.30).

VOLLEYBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Bulgaria v Argentina (15.00); Poland v Brazil (21.00); United States v Cuba (00.30). Pool B: Holland v Italy (17.30); Tunisia v Yugoslavia (22.30); South Korea v Russia (03.00).

SWIMMING: Heats at 15.05 for evening finals plus men's 1500m freestyle. Finals: Men: 50m freestyle (01.02); 200m individual medley (01.45); Women: 800m freestyle (00.30); 200m backstroke (01.27); 4x200m freestyle relay (02.13).

TABLE TENNIS: Men's singles, round-robin (15.00 and 00.00); men's and women's doubles, round-robin (00.00); women's singles, round-robin (15.00).

TAURIC: Men's and women's singles, second round, and men's and women's doubles, first round (15.00).

YACHTING: Two races to be sailed in each class: men's and women's 470, men's Finn, women's Europe, Laser, Star (18.00).

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

BBC1:

7.0-9.0pm Olympic Broadcast, 9.0-6pm Olympic Grandstand, 1-4pm Olympic Grandstand (with cricket from Lord's), 7.0-8.30pm Essential Olympia, 10.30pm-11.30pm Olympic Grandstand.

BBC2:

1.0-1.40pm Olympic Grandstand (during lunch interval at Lord's), 6.0-7.0pm Olympic Grandstand (with cricket), 9.30-10.30pm Olympic Grandstand.

Eurosport

24-hour coverage.

John Bryant

Conley promises battle royal in fight for his crown

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

JONATHAN EDWARDS was in no doubt. "He is the person I have always looked up to. I have the utmost respect for him. He is a fantastic athlete. He has obviously got back into very good shape this year and it will be his last Olympics. He will be a real force." He is Mike Conley, the Olympic triple jump champion.

Yesterday, Conley did the best he could to confirm the views expressed by Edwards

— but shared by few close observers of the sport — that he will not necessarily see his Olympic title pass to the Briton on Saturday. "Here are the Olympics, the slate is wiped clean and Jonathan is one of five jumpers who can win," Conley said.

Wiping the Edwards slate clean requires a large cloth. His world record, his world championship and his unbeaten sequence of 22 competitions over two seasons have chalked his name all over the event, but Conley insisted that his

own performance record, before Edwards rose to prominence, should not be discounted.

"Does my gold in 1992 make no difference? Does my world indoor record, my being No 1 in the world six times, does that make no difference?" Conley provided his own answers. "Yes, it does make a difference — but on the day of the Olympic Games, it makes none."

It is not as if nobody other than Edwards is capable of exceeding 18 metres, he said.



He suggested that three others, himself and Edwards apart, could jump that far in the Olympic final. Yoelvis Quesada, from Cuba, Brian Wellman, from Bermuda, and Kenny Harrison, Conley's compatriot from the United States, were capable, he said, of helping to rewrite the all-time list.

"I think the triple jump at the Olympic Games is going to be the greatest triple jump in history," Conley suggested. "I think it is going to be the greatest track [athletics] event at these Olympics. I predict that three jumpers will go beyond 18 metres."

Conley is a man of so many talents that it is hard to know how he found time to stay near the top of triple jumping for ten years. He is a black belt in Taekwondo, a brown belt in combat karate, breeds ostriches and trains dogs. German

Shepherds and Rottweilers, for police service. He is at present seeking to become Constable of Fayetteville, his home town, where he also coaches a junior basketball team.

After the 1994 season, Edwards studied tapes of Conley to improve his technique, and, the following summer, succeeded him as the world champion. Now Conley has been studying Edwards and has changed his foot placements. "I am looking to return the favour to him," Conley said.

Agassi finds pride to put shaky start behind him

FROM DAVID MILLER IN ATLANTA

ANDRE AGASSI wobbled. He was close to early elimination in a big tournament for the third time in the year: the French Open, Wimbledon and now the Olympic Games, where he is the No 1 seed. He survived, narrowly.

Yet afterwards, Agassi found himself being interviewed less as tennis player than as a man. What did the Games mean to this son of a former Iranian Olympic boxer? How did a multimillionaire relate to thousands of competitors who barely make ends meet?

Agassi gave straight answers. You almost felt sympathy for this triumphant refugee on the world's ant-hill of financial opportunity, someone who is prepared to wring every last hundred thousand dollars from his commercial partnership with an equipment manufacturer that shamelessly exploits

chaos, not well, it must be supposed, especially in the light of a concrete-vibrating obscenity of a concrete slab as Agassi squandered his initial winning position against Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, at 6-5 in the second set. Bjorkman had served for the first set at 5-4 and had two set points in the first tie-break before losing 7-6, 7-6.

"It was a close call," Agassi admitted, "but I stayed competitive throughout, managed to keep fighting. It's not great yet. I'll get better. I haven't found my game, my rhythm, my confidence. My forehand was struggling. At this altitude [3,000ft], the ball moves through the air quick, but was slow on the court, bouncing high." Victory secured, he meets Karol Kučera, of Slovakia, next in the second round and is seeded to play Goran Ivanisević, of Croatia, in the final.

Agassi was glad to be back on his favourite surface — hard, cement courts. No. his arguments with Thomas Muster, of Austria, about surface preference were over. He was sorry Muster was absent, as well as his compatriots and long-time rivals, Sampras, Courier and Chang. He had never considered not coming. Why would anybody?

"It's disappointing, you miss something," he said. "To win is an all-time accomplishment. Absentees? You still have to win it, it's not an easy tournament by any means. I'll take the gold medal any way I can get it."

Those dark Arabian eyes rolled beneath the strangely shaved head with its stranger earrings when he was asked about the juxtaposition of wealth and the Olympic spirit. That he had to think about the answer implied sincerity.

"How much you earn as an individual can be irrelevant as much as relevant," he answered. "There are a lot of great athletes [here] in great sports, where maybe they deserve to earn money. Just because you do, it doesn't mean you don't love your sport."

The way he battled against Bjorkman, when demonstrating off touch, testified to his pride and his loyalty to the game. Given the current transport

"My dad became a tennis nut," Agassi recalled, "and tennis wasn't part of the Olympics, so we didn't talk much [about boxing]. Yet I was very aware of it, that he was very athletic. He picked up a racket and took it to after tennis became an [Olympic] event, it [my participation] is something he's most proud of."

Yes, Agassi felt he was missing something by not being in the Olympic Village. "In preparing ... my main duty was to give my best shot to [win for the United States], so I chose the normal way," he said. "The village is quite enjoyable, but you've got to make decisions that at times seem undiscussed. Yet how would I have responded, far from the venue?"

Given the current transport

Dougie enjoys just deserts



So, all those afternoons with the pensioners watching indoor bowls, those evenings fronting interminable snooker tournaments, were worth it after all. Dougie Donnelly got the beach volleyball. And so, at last, had we. Paul Palmer had put us on the medal table and Mo Glover and Audrey Cooper were about to kick sand in the faces of the deeply-tanned Drift. Night five and things were definitely looking up.

Donnelly had decided that there was only one way to survive an encounter with this extraordinary sport and that was to take it completely seriously. Some might have succumbed to a risqué joke, but not our Dougie. A man more accustomed to muttering "good wood" in green-carpeted sports halls, quickly got to grips with a new vocabulary of sun, sand, "jump serves" and "massive spikes". Like a latter-day Nelson, he saw no bikinis.

Even Des Lynam contented himself with "well be seeing them again ... won't we?" at the game's conclusion. It was all very commendable ... but what a shame nobody asked Stuart Hall.

Obree scrambles in vain pursuit

FROM PETER BRYAN

GRAEME OBREE's hopes of an Olympic medal in the 4,000 metres pursuit ended at the first stage when he failed to qualify for a place in yesterday's quarter-finals. As he waited for his match against Bradley McGhee, of Australia, he saw, first, Chris Boardman's Olympic record broken and then, moments before he started, he had to sit through an even faster world-record time than his own, set by Andrea Collinelli, the Italian, whom he beat last year to win the world title.

Obree, who has tried to play down the effects of a persistent viral infection this year, never achieved the form he can produce. He knew that there would be no fast times from him. His slow start against McGhee was not unusual; he rides a high gear that takes at least two laps of the 250 metres track to get rolling. To allow for his lack of form, Obree rode to a schedule of 4min 30sec (nine seconds slower than his old world record) but one that he considered could get him fifth or sixth place. He steadily lost ground not only to McGhee but to his schedule.

His stretched-out riding position, resembling that of Superman, has been copied all over the world since he adopted it two years ago.

Yesterday Obree was no Superman. Towards the end he slowed so much it was obvious. His time was a saddening 4:34.297, compared with Collinelli's new standard of 4:19.699 and left him trailing in eleventh place.

After his race, Obree, whose career has often been a minefield of disappointment, was quick to recover his humour. It could have been a mask; it must have been a mask, no sportsman could endure that sort of ignominy and remain balanced.

"As I waited to ride [Collinelli] rode in the previous heat I felt like a lamb being led to the slaughter: an Olympian and world record in the first round? I never thought that those sort of times would



Obree fails to keep up to the pace at Stone Mountain. Photograph: Marc Aspland

be done. I knew that on present form I had nothing in my legs to approach them. But I still felt I would do a +30." He denied that the fast times caused him to panic, though his concentration as he waited in the starting gate was spoilt by photographers hiding the lap board from his view. Obree waved them away.

Had he thought of pulling out because of his illness? "Not at all," he said. "I am here to represent my country. I don't quit."

Half an hour after his defeat, Obree was back in the saddle. He had decided to go for a training ride on his own to give him a chance to focus on the 62 kilometres road time-trial on Saturday week

which ends the cycling programme.

Collinelli later set two new records when he beat his own Olympic and world bests to win his quarter-final against Andriy Yatsenko, of Ukraine, and qualified for today's semi-finals. The Italian rode his quarter-final round in 4:19.153, having caught his rival with 120 metres to go.

Lightweights take plaudits on mixed day

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL

GREAT BRITAIN had a variable day at Lanier yesterday. Early-morning elation prompted by the successes of the lightweight men was dispelled when both the Britishights failed to reach their finals.

To their credit, the men's eight, who had to finish first or second, worked hard in their heat. They seemed to be losing contact with Canada, Russia and Italy in the third quarter but Richard Hamilton, the new stroke, pushed the rate to 40 at 1,500 metres. His crew responded and overhauled Italy but, although still gaining, they were two feet behind Russia, and qualification, at the line.

The women's eight seemed unable to shake off the disappointment of their



Monday defeat. They produced a better first 500 metres and, although fourth, were in the pack of six from which they had to be in the top four. By halfway, the Dutch had inched into that vital fourth place ahead of Britain, who in the outside lane, seemed unable to respond and were subsequently passed by Australia.

Defeat is always harder when others are celebrating and the lightweight double scull and men's had earlier booked their semi-final slots. Nick Howe, the doubles coach, had to do some fast talking at 5.15am when he was refused

parking permission, but after that things went smoothly. After Monday's problems, the order was twofold — "Get the start right, then don't make mistakes." They did both. Leading at 500 metres, close behind the United States at 1,000 metres, Andy Simton, the stroke, then stayed calm as the Cubans pushed hard. Britain remained in the second qualifying place.

The men's lightweight four was knocked out of its rhythm by a side-wash at 250 metres and dropped back from to third. Calm prevailed, though, and they moved back through the field to be second on the 62 kilometres road time-trial on Saturday week.

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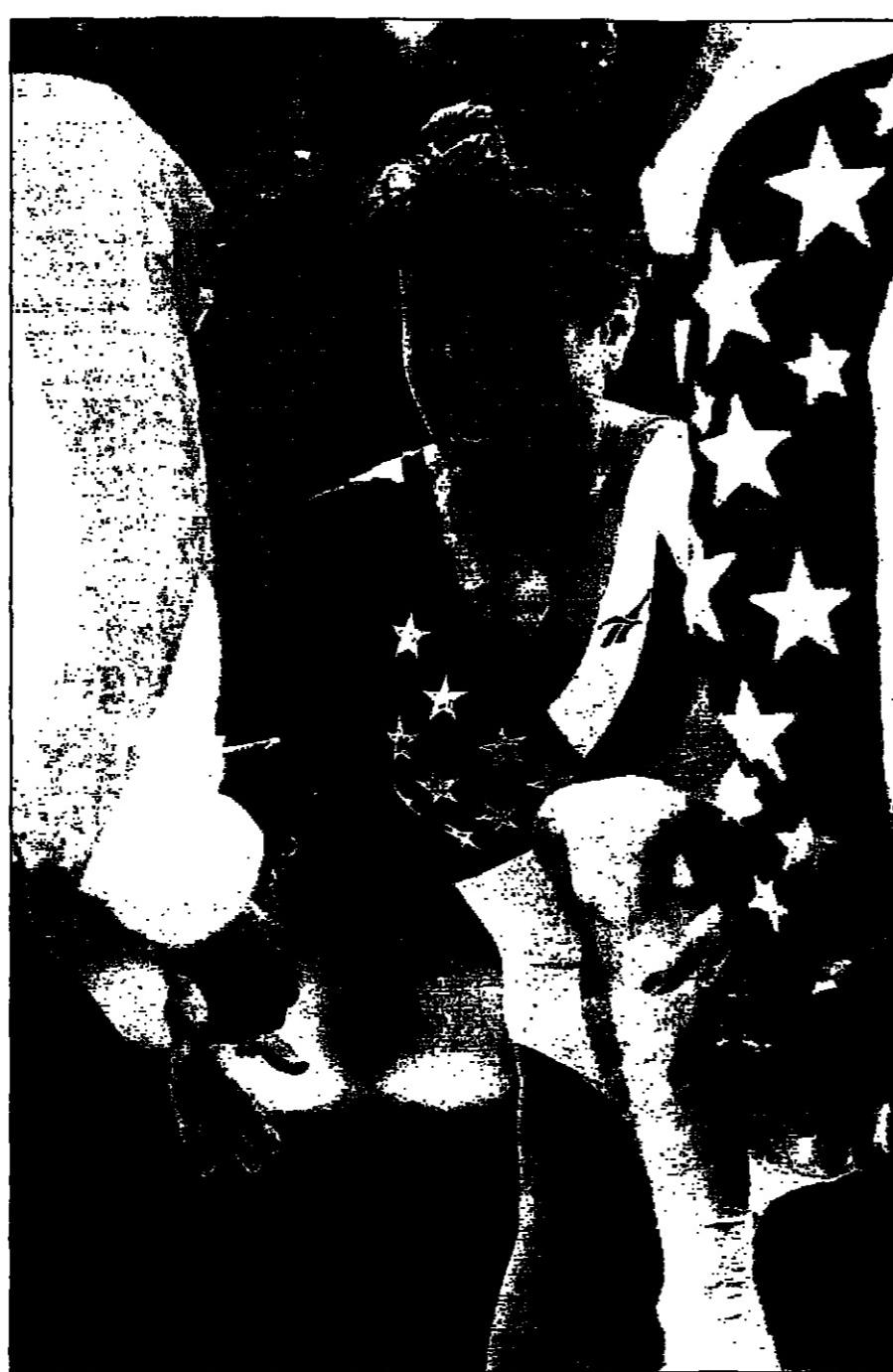
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Strug leaps, lands and collapses in agony, recovering for the presentations, flanked by Moceanu, left, and Miller, before being carried from the arena by Karolyi, her coach

Heroine joins Olympic hall of fame

Andrew Longmore salutes the courage of Kerri Strug, America's latest golden girl

WHEN these Games are over, Atlanta should erect a statue to Kerri Strug. It would not need to be very big. Lifesize would be a mere 4ft 9in tall. Because Strug has rescued the Olympics, diverted attention from all the bickering, the heat and the incompetence and produced a sporting story of courage and sacrifice translatable into every language in the world. If Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic flame, Kerri Strug from Tucson has set the Games alight.

Yesterday morning, Strug woke up to the adulation of the world's press and the uncomfortable realisation that in the moment of triumph her world has fallen apart. Great gymnasts are not remembered for winning team gold — but then Strug is not a great gymnast, she is a heroine, which is very different.

Over the past four years, Strug has wandered from gym to gym, punished her tough but tender little body day after day in search of individual

glory. At the age of 18, this was her last chance. She has always been cast as a support player, not as sassy as Shannan Miller nor as gifted as Dominique Moceanu, the 14-year-old American champion, the new Mary Lou Retton.

Standing on the runway, her heavily-strapped left ankle throbbing after her first missed vault, Strug had to make a choice that a selfish sport like gymnastics rarely requires. She could have limped away, claimed the sympathy vote and protected herself for the all-round event tonight, the blue ribbon of gymnastics. Instead, urged on by her coach, the ebullient Bela Karolyi, she ignored the pain, lifted her muscular little frame for one final effort and, in the ultimate act of the naturally-talented team player, leapt into history. What

she did was to become the beneficiary of the sprained ankle could be Moceanu.

whose tiny shadow Strug has spent much of the last two years trying to cast off. Moceanu, the offspring of Romanian immigrants, was chosen for glory almost from birth and fed to the marketing moguls as soon as she could walk. She had the same eyes as Nadia Comaneci and, in Karolyi, the same coach as Comaneci and Retton. Karolyi was always ready with the quote, "This one is going to sparkle," he said. "She's dynamic."

Strug was never dynamite, but she was determined. Having tried gym in Oklahoma City and Colorado, among others, the heart surgeon's daughter returned to the regime run by Karolyi and his wife, Martha, in Houston when the Romanian came out of retirement to coach Moceanu. Karolyi had coached Strug before the Barcelona Games, where the American team won a disappointing bronze. Strug finished fourteenth in the all-

round competition and Karolyi retired.

"Little Kerri," Karolyi said, "she always hung around at the back. She didn't have the self-confidence, but she had the ethic to work very hard." It was touch and go whether Strug made the 1996 team.

Confusion was the dominant emotion on Strug's face as she was carried to the podium to receive her gold. Unable to grasp the size of her achievement, she will probably not understand, until the Games are well over and the phone keeps ringing, what a name she has carved for herself in Olympic history.

With luck, her ambition to go to college and become a doctor will not be swayed by the offers that will follow. College rules do not allow gymnasts to accept prize-money nor to have agents. Strug needs neither. Her fame will transcend dollars and cents, will survive long after a book called *The Making of an American Champion*, an account of the life and times of Dominique Moceanu, has fallen out of print.

There was one final, poignant moment. When the medals had been presented and the hands waved until they ached, six members of the team jumped from the podium. Strug was left alone, forgotten again, until Moceanu turned and helped her down.

HOCKEY

Simpson's vital strike puts Britain back in medal hunt

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN

GREAT BRITAIN bounced back into contention for the women's Olympic hockey title with a 1-0 victory over the United States, who had already beaten South Korea 3-2 in an exciting finish.

It was Britain's turn to provide the excitement in Tuesday's game, though, with Rhona Simpson, of Scotland, scoring in the 51st minute with one of the best goals seen so far in open play. Britain should have taken the lead on the stroke of half-time. Tina Cullen and Jane Sixsmith split the American defence but Simpson, who had the final shot, missed the target by inches.

The United States were temporarily deprived of one of their defenders, Kris Filat, who was sent off in the 44th minute for deliberately hitting the ball out of play after the whistle had been blown. They faced up to a short corner in her absence, but Britain failed to take advantage of it.

The pace quickened, with Britain having the edge, and the match was set alight when Simpson sent the ball flashing into the net from a cross-pass by Mandy Nicholls, who had come on as a substitute early in the first half.

The Americans doubled their effort and laid siege to the British goal, but they missed an easy chance to level the scores in the 63rd minute when a feeble shot by Laurel Martin was easily saved. The match ended with Sixsmith covering ground for Britain at high speed and putting a shot against the outside of the boards.

A women's hockey team is

full of chunky stoppers and long-legged speedsters in kilts. Behind them stands a kind of dalek, masked, padded and gauntleted; the last word in defiance. They don't love goalkeepers sufficiently over here. Have I put my finger on a fundamental flaw in the American civilisation?

GOALIES are members of

a team who wear different clothes. But in

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SIMON BARNES



Atlanta sketch

paper paragraphs, a couple of minutes of highlights, and no more than a homeopathic dose of triumphalism.

I went to watch America and found a stadium half full. The crowd were no more than cheerfully partisan. I was watching American athletes in something close to a whoop-free zone, a rare privilege.

The highlight of the American performances has been the dramatic goalkeeping of Patty Shea. The Brits lined up against her badly needing a win, and South Korea had just beaten her 5-0.

In a match full of grit rather than flow, Britain broke away at the end of the first half and Jane Sixsmith, quadrupedally incarnate at this time and traditionally described as "the flame-haired striker", fired coolly and accurately at goal.

And there was Shea, aquaplaning through the sudden astroturf (this game looks as if it is played on a marsh rather than a field — you keep looking for snipe) to deny her.

She is fit in and ten stone, built for power rather than speed. She has played in goal

ice hockey and football. Life is divided, so various irritating advertisements tell me, between spectators and participants. So far as I am concerned, the division is between outfielders and goalkeepers.

She is 33, and has had 13 operations on her right knee. She has retired once, for four years, and then unretired and gave up her job — hockey coach at a college, what else? — to take on the Olympics.

She is from a Boston-Irish family of 11 children, and she is what Americans call a Natural Jock — a competitor through and through. And what is rather more, she is that rare thing at these Games, an unsung American hero. So she is worth singing a quiet aria about here.

Meanwhile, Our Own Brave Girls, well used to being unsung heroines themselves, put together a performance of some character which is rewarded with the only goal, Rhona Simpson turning the ball in as a darting attack left the American goal exposed. "A great goal," Shea said afterwards, for they are even ungrudgingly sporting in this hidden little corner of the Games.

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Family fortunes determine relative values

Television had dynasties written all over it last night, though there was no sign of Joan Collins. This was serious stuff, with little space for the frivolities of big hair and lip gloss. No, the venues were central Africa, Britain and Pakistan.

The last of these places is in the news, what with Bothum versus Imran Khan in court and England versus Pakistan beginning today at Lord's. But these are manufactured epics, a mere sampler album compared to the intricate double-CD that is Pakistan (BBC2).

The *Dynasty* (BBC2) is a three-part series about one of Pakistan's most powerful families. This is a fascinating study of a complex country for which pundits have long been offering answers, only to be frustrated by the fact that the questions keep changing.

There are about 500 feudal families which run Pakistan. Abida Hussain, a former Ambas-

sador to Washington, is the matriarch of one of these families and she is the focus of the series.

Abida is a femme formidable, educated, cultured, strong-willed. Her family is Shia Muslim, which is only one source of their problems fundamental Sunnis, from whom the Shias broke several hundred years ago, regard the Shias with contempt.

Abida's family owns huge swaths of land, mostly planted with sugar cane, which is leased to tenant farmers. She was filmed holding court over one of the interminable land disputes which wrack Pakistani society. Land reform is to Pakistan what integrated transport policy is to Britain: a "good thing" which nobody will bring about.

At one of Abida's hearings, a poor family claimed to have been pushed off their land at gunpoint. Abida, her Western diplomatic training on show, offered a com-

promise: cool off and attend another meeting. The parties went away. The second meeting? Neither turned up.

Abida needs the votes of such people. She gave up her parliamentary seat to become an ambassador. Her mother stood for election, but lost. So now Abida's husband, Fakher — who is also her cousin — is the family's only parliamentary voice.

Fakher does not immediately come across as a man of warmth, a kisser of babies. When a beggar wanders up to the family home, Fakher studiously ignores the man. Eventually he says to a servant: "Give him some money and get rid of him."

The first programme ended with Abida's son returning from Yale for a religious festival. He represents one of the many ramifications of Pakistan: a ruling élite mostly educated at English public schools

and American universities, trying to reconcile Islam, feudalism and Western egalitarianism.

Not that being a Pakistani in Britain is any easier. I am not sure what to make of *Seed* (BBC2), the latest short drama in a season called *Double Exposure*, the work of writers now to television. *Seed*, by Bradley Cole, was an allegory set in Birmingham and had to do with ethnic and family pressures.

The lead players, a white male, a black male and a girl from a Pakistani family, agonised about family demands and their needs as individuals, a dilemma explored while the two young men combined to take over a derelict site and turn it into a field of wheat.

I think the message was about the inevitability of some seed falling on stony ground: while the wheat flourished, the young white was attempting to take his illegitimate child from its mother, with tragic consequences. As with the dormouse two days after a postal strike, I left there were too many messages lying around.

And so to central Africa and a black-and-white piece of work from *Amiga's* Television *Survival*, which I notice has now become its own limited company, *Gosh*. *Survival Special: A Space in the Heart of Africa* (ITV) was about that greatest of all inter-dependent dynasties, the animal kingdom.

Alan Root's programme is the fruit of eight years spent in Zaire. The theme is the delicate balance in rainforests and it offered conclusive proof that we muck about with such lands at our peril, not to mention the peril of its inhabitants.

How is a clearing formed in a rain forest so that growth can be renewed? I am so pleased you asked. Tropical storms sometimes demolish large trees, but if not, elephants banging through the undergrowth have the same effect. The tree falls down and suddenly ten times the previous amount of light is let in.

Vegetation, too long kept in the dark, leaps upwards. Elephants eat some of it, but their dung makes fertile soil for yet more species. The growth provides cover for animals, who therefore thrive. In this environment there lives a variety of animals who have more

sense than a dozen government quangos welded together.

There is, for example, a type of antelope that lives well without having to search for food. This creature follows monkeys about the place. The monkeys knock fruit off trees and the antelope comes along behind and eats the fruit. Another antelope, the Water Chevrotain, escapes predators by diving into water. It walks along the bed of the stream with its eyes open. We know this, because Root filmed it happening.

But none of this would happen without the clearing work done by elephants. Unfortunately, men with guns are out trying to shoot elephants so that people can hang bits of ivory from their persons. Which is more worthy of preservation, a man with a gun shooting elephants for money or an antelope clever enough to get a monkey to do his food shopping? I couldn't agree more.

REVIEW



Peter
Barnard

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Christianity — First Test, live coverage of the first day's play between England and Pakistan at Lord's. Plus the latest from Atlanta, during the lunch interval (s) (2454/2809)

3.00pm News and Weather (Ceefax) (31187)

1.30 Regional News (1298187)

1.40 Olympic Grandstand. The first of the five reports from Atlanta. Featuring rowing semi-finals: 2.00 Coxless pairs, 3.20 Coxless fours, 4.20 Single sculls. Cycling semi-finals and at 5.40 the final of the individual pursuit. Equestrianism, three-day eventing. Swimming: 50m freestyle final. Plus women's hockey, badminton, beach volleyball, judo, tennis and shooting. At 4.00 coverage from Lord's of the First Test (2542854)

6.00pm Business Breakfast (33359)

7.00 Olympic Breakfast. The best of the overnight action from Atlanta (s) includes 7.15, 7.45, 8.15 News (58800)

9.00 News (Ceefax) (487351)

9.05 Olympic Grandstand. Extended highlights of the overnight action including swimming, cycling, gymnastics, boxing, tennis, badminton and weight-lifting (Ceefax) (s). Includes 11.00; 12.00 News and Weather (4923262)

12.35pm Neighbours. Linda has a proposal for Lou (Ceefax) (s) (9670187)

1.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (31187)

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6.00pm News and Weather (Ceefax) (651)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (903)

7.00 Essential Olympics. Desmond Lynam reviews the day's action so far, including cycling with the 4,000m individual pursuit. Out on Lake Lanier is the semi-final day, featuring the coxless pairs with Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, thecoxless four with the Searle brothers and the single sculls with triple world champion Peter Haining. In the pool, there are the 50m freestyle heats and the 1,500m, action from last night's finals and tonight's 800m round two in the boxing competition (Ceefax) (s) (85670)

9.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (651)

9.30 Men Behaving Badly. Tony discovers that Gary has £23,000 stashed away in his bank account (Ceefax) (s) (39632)

10.00 **CHOICE** Attic Art Part 2. New series from the writer of *Rab C. Nesbit*, following an amateur football team on and off the field. Starring Gordon Kennedy, Clive Russell and Ronnie Lehman (Ceefax) (s) (22854)

10.30 Olympic Grandstand. Live coverage introduced by Desmond Lynam including 10.40 Gymnastics: The battle for the women's all-round title (1149748) 11.45 Hockey: Great Britain v Malaysia (55869) 12.25pm Swimming: Includes 12.30 Women's 800m freestyle 12.46 Men's 50m freestyle 1.08 Women's 200m breaststroke 1.32 Men's 200m individual medley 1.58 Women's 4 x 200m freestyle relay (616442) 2.15 Boxing and Yachting (312065) 2.55 Tennis/Badminton/Table Tennis/Indoor Volleyball (53336)

4.30 FILM: *The Admiral Was a Lady* (1950, b/w) with Edmund O'Brien, Wanda Hendrix and Rudy Vallee. Frothy comedy about four work-shy girls meeting a pretty young girl, who dreams of getting married. Directed by Albert S. Rogell (54341) Ends 6.00am

Videoplus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record the programme. To record a programme from the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record, Videoplus+ ("Pluscode") and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.10am Open University: Ceramics Under Stress (6767835) 6.35 Databases (8281274) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (8497392)

9.05 Spiderman (r) (330581) 9.25 The Village by the Sea (r) (6405564) 9.55 Paddington Paws (6391038) 10.25 The Playdays (r) (6378187) 10.25 The Record (5294477)

10.50 Cricket — First Test and Olympic Grandstand. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the first Test between England and Pakistan from Lord's. Plus the latest from Atlanta, during the lunch interval (s) (2454/2809)

3.00pm News and Weather (Ceefax) (198106)

3.05 Cricket: First Test. Live coverage of the first day's play in the match at Lord's between England and Pakistan (s) (2454/2809)

4.00 Cartoon (7272038) 4.05 Little Mouse on the Prairie (Ceefax) (263749) 4.30 Bouncing Back: The Best Bits of Johnny Ball (Ceefax) (800) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (8542903) 5.10 The Lowdown (r) (Ceefax) (s) (791458)

5.35 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (335835)

6.00 Cricket — First Test and Olympic Grandstand. Tony Lewis introduces further live coverage on the opening day, along with the latest news from Atlanta. Cricket commentary is from Rich Beaujot, Geoffrey Boycott, David Gower and Asif Iqbal (s) (32729)

7.00 Ready, Steady, Cook. Fern Britton presents the 200th edition of the cookery challenge, with chefs Ainsley Harriott and Brian Turner and some surprise guests (s) (7148)

7.30pm **CHOICE** Sir — The Gaps in the Ranks Need Filling (Ceefax) (723)

Secret History: The Whitechapel Murders Channel 4, 9.00pm

The shelves are overloaded with books claiming to reveal the identity of Jack the Ripper and if the evidence for any of the many candidates is a long way short of conclusive, the Ripper industry continues to thrive. David Jessel's documentary at least gets away from the usual names and points the finger at a man who has rarely, if at all, figured in the Ripper literature. There are two reasons for thinking he was the killer. All the circumstantial evidence fits: he was in the right place at the right time and had a hatred of women. Secondly, he appears to have been the police's own prime suspect. It is doubtful, all the same, whether there is enough to conviction him, though a continued fascination of the Ripper story is precisely that nobody has managed to write the definitive final chapter.

Attic Art Partick

BBC1, 10.00pm

Ian Pattison, best known among many comedy credits as the creator of *Rab C. Nesbit*, is the author of this Scottish sit-com about a struggling pub football team. Before haters of the game groan at the prospect, it must be emphasised that the show is as much concerned with what happens off the field as on. Wives, particularly disenchanted ones, are prominent. Indeed, the basic joke is to contrast the turmoil of the domestic front with the male camaraderie of pub and playing field. But there is even a twist on this when one of the players drafts in his mother to make up a depleted team. On the early evidence this is a raucous, vulgar but not unlikeable series which makes up in vigour what it lacks in subtlety. Gordon Kennedy is the most familiar face among a lively ensemble cast.

Kirsty Young and resident (8.00pm)

The Street. Kirsty Young and her team of three trouble-shooters — a lawyer, a doctor and a building expert — visit an ordinary street, meet the residents and set about trying to solve their various problems (Ceefax) (s) (9516)

8.30 Olympic Grandstand. Sue Barker introduces more action from Atlanta, including the final of the featherweight judo competition. Plus the women's individual gymnastics final, boxing, tennis, badminton and beach volleyball (s) (15670)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (401922)

11.15 Cricket — First Test. Highlights from the first day's play between England and Pakistan at Lord's. Introduced by Rich Beaujot (s) (157877)

12.00 Arena: A Day in the Life of Sam the Dog (49626)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

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Sri Lanka's agony mounts as dozens die in train blasts

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

DOZENS of rush-hour commuters were killed last night and up to 500 injured in explosions on a packed train seven miles south of Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital. The passengers had reboarded minutes before after being ordered off for a bomb search.

The blue and red diesel train, which left Colombo at 5.15pm, was standing at the small station of Dehiwala after a soldier became suspicious of a bag. Passengers were milling around on the platform and passengers, believing this amounted to the all-clear, boarded again.

Two carriages were blown apart by what are thought to have been separate devices, and part of the station was demolished. A survivor said: "The station was filled with smoke. When it cleared, I saw people fallen all over the

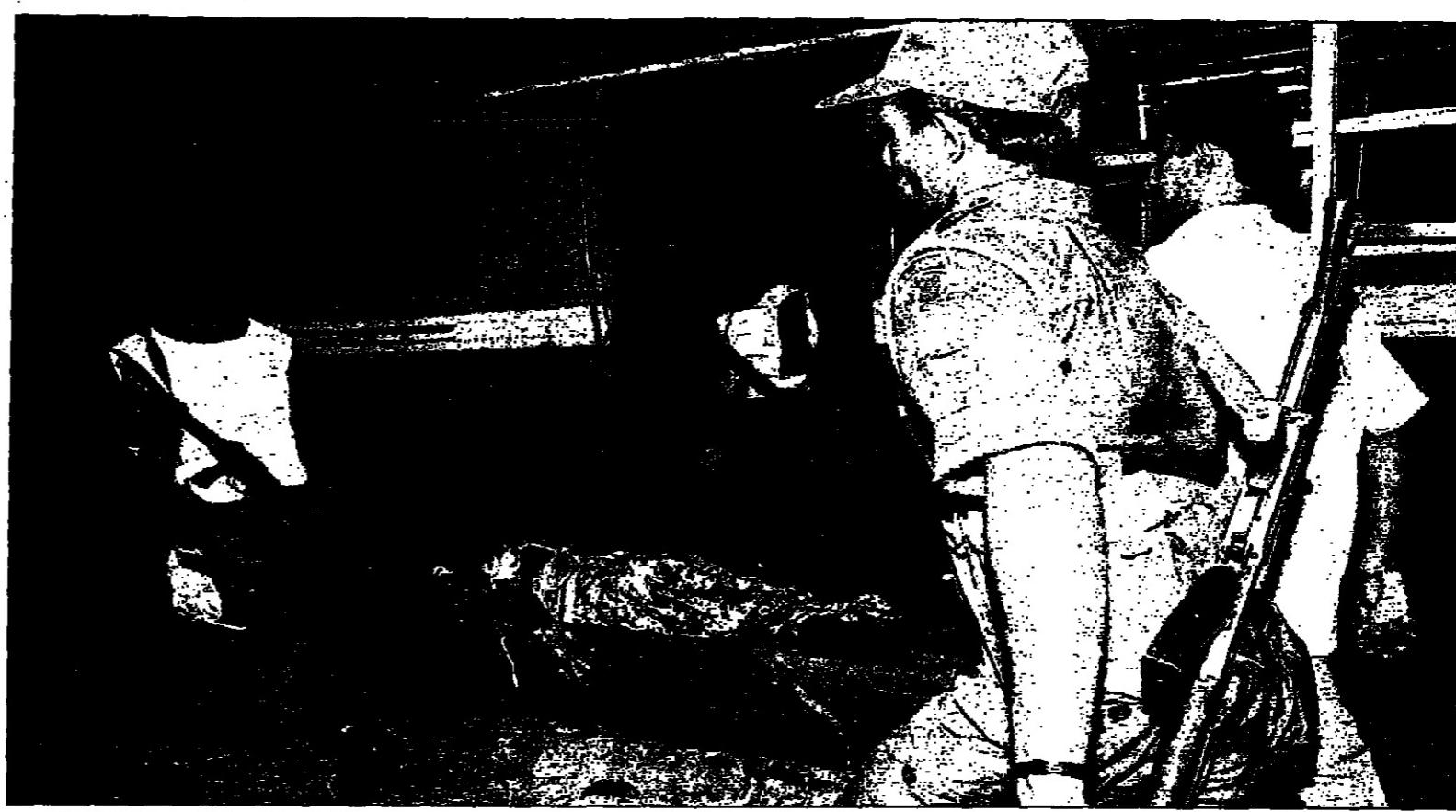
station." The injured, found lying amid smouldering debris, were carried in cars, buses and scooter rickshaws through traffic to nearby hospitals, which are ill-equipped for such a disaster.

Last night's initial death toll of around 50 is expected to rise substantially in coming days. One hospital which admitted 275 of the injured said last night that at least 70 were fighting for their lives.

It was the first big attack on Colombo by the Tamil Tigers since they tore apart the city centre with a huge lorry bomb six months ago. Several blackened, gutted and windowless towerblocks stand in testimony to the continuing power of the Tigers to wreck the economy and spread terror.

Troops broke through the Tigers' lines yesterday and re-entered the base, but found only bodies. The garrison had been looted of its substantial arsenal and the Tigers scored such a decisive victory they were able to bring in tractors to carry away their own dead in carts.

They took away armoured vehicles, artillery pieces, hundreds of rifles and thousands of rounds of ammunition. They are also believed to have taken a long-range Russian-built Antonov field gun.



Sri Lankan soldiers drafted in as emergency workers carry the injured from the scene of last night's train bombing outside Colombo

The Tigers are so far admitting to more than 200 dead — one of their greatest single losses of the war. Most of those will be from the Jaffna peninsula in the north. The Tamil heartland, which has been under army control since

early this year. The deaths will be "celebrated" by the Tigers in elaborate ceremonies according to tradition, souring the mood against government forces in Jaffna, where there were signs that a hearts-and-minds campaign to win over

local civilians had been succeeding. Opposition leaders yesterday denounced the Government for failing to defend the nation, despite vastly increased defence expenditure.

Mullaitivu was not as big as

other garrisons in the north, such as Poonaryn and Elephanta Pass, making it a more attractive target.

July is often a violent month in Sri Lanka, when the Tigers lament strife to commemorate anti-Tamil riots in Colombo

Letters, page 17

Tokyo alert over food poisoning

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT
IN TOKYO

AS a food poisoning epidemic spread across Japan, Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, yesterday declared a national emergency and pledged effort would be spared to combat the outbreak.

In a statement on the epidemic, which has struck 8,230 people and killed seven people, Mr Hashimoto said the infection caused by intestinal bacteria was no longer confined to one region but threatened the health of everyone in the country.

The food poisoning by the O157 coliform bacteria which started in May has now spread to the entire nation, the Prime Minister said. "I recognise that the O157 food poisoning is a problem deeply related to the daily lives of the people and that it is now a national issue."

Mr Hashimoto pledged urgent action a day after a girl, aged ten, died in the town of Sakai, where more than 6,400 primary schoolchildren have been stricken in the past fortnight. By last night, the number of seriously ill children with symptoms of haemolytic uraemic syndrome, a kidney-destroying disease arising from the food poisoning, rose to 96, up 22 from the previous day, Sakai city officials said.

Deadly strain of bug

THE bacterium causing alarm in Japan is a dangerous strain of *Escherichia coli*, a normal inhabitant of the human gut (Jeremy Laurence writes). Until 15 years ago, *E. coli* caused the occasional upset stomach, but in 1982 it became clear that a strain of the bacterium called O157:H7 had acquired a gene that enabled it to produce a powerful toxin, known as verotoxin.

Scientists are analysing hundreds of samples of lunches served in Sakai schools in the middle of last month to try to identify the source. Main suspects are cold noodles, raw cows' liver and undercooked hamburger.

The Prime Minister, who is to announce a detailed plan to tighten food inspection procedures tomorrow, urged the public to get medical treatment at the first sign of the unusual symptoms.

Japan has accepted an offer of help from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention to fight the epidemic. The Atlanta-based institution helped to eradicate an O157 outbreak in 1993 which killed four children in the American Midwest. In past emergencies, including last year's Kobe earthquake, Japanese officials had shown themselves reluctant to accept help from overseas.

Man saved from shark by dolphins

BY ROBERT WHYMANT

Cairo: Three bottlenose dolphins saved Martin Richardson, a British tourist, from a shark in the Red Sea.

Mr Richardson, 29, from Colchester, was swimming with the dolphins off the Sinai peninsula on Tuesday when friends on board a diving boat heard him scream as a shark bit his side and arm. The dolphins encircled him, flapping their tails to scare off the shark.

A statement by Israel's Recanati Centre for Maritime Studies at the University of Haifa, which monitors marine life in the area, said: "This defensive behaviour of dolphins is common when mothers are protecting their calves from predators."

Mr Richardson is recovering in an Egyptian military hospital. (AP)

'Fiery Horse' women struggle to make stable relationships

BY ROBERT WHYMANT

MARIKO's thirtieth birthday has reminded her, painfully, how tough it is for women born in 1966, the Year of the Fiery Horse, to find a man ready to risk marriage to someone associated with the unluckiest year of the Japanese zodiac.

"It's definitely a drawback when I meet the family of someone I like," said Mariko, who is still single and did not want her full name to be published. "There are people who really believe I will bring calamity if I marry their son."

Under the ancient Chinese calendar, used for fortune telling, the horse combines with fire in one of 60 years, supposedly resulting in fires and other disasters. According to traditional belief, women born in this year had a "wild

disposition and ate their husbands," Kodansha's *Japan Encyclopedia* records.

Still vivid in folk memory is a 1683 incident in which a young woman born in the Year of the Fiery Horse was executed for arson. Even in high-tech modern-day Japan, such superstitions continue to flourish.

The nation's birth statistics for 1965 to 1967 tell a similar story. In 1966, the most recent occurrence of the *hineouma*, Year of the Fiery Horse, many couples obviously took care to avoid having children. The birth rate fell to 1.36 million from 1.82 million in the previous year, and jumped to 1.93 million in 1967. The Health and Welfare Ministry presumes that some parents waited to register daughters until 1966 was safely over.

But that still left Mariko and 655,510 other females at a disadvantage. This year the stable of fiery horses turns 30, an age when women not yet married are perjoratively called *urinokori* (merchandise still on the shelf). And though women are increasingly delaying marriage to pursue careers, it is patently obvious that Mariko and others like her are having more trouble finding partners than women aged either 29 or 31.

"My first steady boy friend took me home to meet his father," said Mariko. "When his father found out my age, and worked out my year of birth, he told the son he must stop seeing me."

After that, she decided not to disclose her real age until certain that a potential spouse is unlikely to bolt. But she is still waiting for her personal Mr Right.

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Many workers feel trapped and frustrated because they are stuck in a vicious circle. They can't get a top job unless they have the best qualifications. They want to improve their job prospects but can't afford to — it's money not motivation that bars the way. What is more employers want qualified people.

Career Development Loans (CDLs) try to solve this dilemma by allowing you to train without having to pay until you've finished your course.

Between 1988 and 78,000 have applied for CDLs.

It is expected that record numbers of applications for loans will be taken out this year.

The CDL scheme is operated by Co-operative, Clydesdale and The Royal Bank of Scotland. Once you've agreed a loan, then you do not have to pay any instalments back until one month after your studies end. A loan can be between £200 and £8,000 and will pay up to 80% of your course fees.

Repayments are fixed even if interest rates go up. During the study period, which can last up to two years, the Government will pay the interest on the loan. After this period you have up to five years to repay it.

You don't have to be unemployed to qualify for a Career Development Loan. As long as you are over 18, you can apply for a loan to finance yourself through a wide range of vocational courses whether they be full-time, part-time or distance learning.

Mr Farrow feels he has benefited from a CDL. He used to be a psychiatric ward manager but felt frustrated, "I seemed to be pushing against a glass ceiling, probably a feeling shared by many people in large organisations". At 26 he took out an £800 Career Development Loan. He successfully completed the 2 year part-time course and secured a place on the NHS general management training programme.

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He now pays back £40 a month and says, "There was no way I could afford to pay the fees myself so the loan has proved a worthwhile investment."

A pilot scheme was launched by the Department for Education and Employment in the South West of Britain and South Wales to give CDL's wider appeal. This allows for a longer repayment holiday of up to 18 months after your course has finished. If you have been out of work for 3 months you may be able to borrow 100% of your course fees. If the course is full time you may be eligible to get a loan to cover your living expenses. Many workers feel trapped and frustrated because they are stuck in a vicious circle.

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Mr Farrow feels he has benefited from a CDL. He used to be a psychiatric ward manager but felt frustrated, "I seemed to be pushing against a glass ceiling, probably a feeling shared by many people in large organisations". At 26 he took out an £800

Career Development Loan. He successfully completed the 2 year part-time course and secured a place on the NHS general management training programme. He now works at a hospital trust as an assistant hospital manager



For the occupants of this unremarkable house, the freak storm had odd consequences

ADRIAN SHERATT

The house that was struck by lightning

July 6, 2.32pm. Jane Taylor is sitting on the top deck of a number 141 bus, having left home a few minutes before to visit a friend. She is a journalist, deputy editor of the *New Statesman*.

It is a sultry Saturday afternoon in Stoke Newington, north London. No sunshine but at the same time little prospect of rain. The kids on the street corners press cold Coke cans to their temples, the pensioners sit on folding chairs outside their front doors. The city sweats gently into its summer clothes, and curses the humidity.

Ellen Reynolds, a 41-year-old local government worker who lives in the flat above Ms Taylor, remembers that she had popped out to buy groceries and was only 200 yards from home.

Civil servant James Airey, 30, who had recently moved into the maisonette at the top of the house, was shopping in Islington and looking forward to a combined housewarming and birthday party that evening.

And, quite untroubled, a cool west-by-northwesterly airstream that had made its way across the North Atlantic from Greenland via Iceland was arriving in the upper atmosphere above them. Made up of harmless rainclouds, it would need to encounter ground temperatures of 18 or 19°C to push it up to 30,000 feet, condense more water and turn it into a thunderstorm.

London that day was the hottest place in Britain. And just before 2.30pm, with the cool stream above Stoke Newington, the temperature peaked at 19°C.

"There was a very bright flash in the sky, then a terrific bolt of thunder immediately overhead," recalls Jane Taylor. "It was so loud, it sent people running in all directions. Then there was a tiny shower of rain. I knew the 'storm' had been directly above us but it didn't occur to me that the lightning had struck my street."

"At first I thought it was an IRA bomb, it was so loud," says James Airey. "I have seen weather conditions like this

before in Florida — dark skies with intermittent sunshine, then torrential rainstorms — but never in London."

Ellen Reynolds thought the same. "There was no sound before or after," she says, "just that single blast. The lightning and thunder were simultaneous. I nearly jumped out of my skin, and while it never occurred to me that it might have hit my flat, I knew it was near. People were fleeing from the bus shelter and when I ducked into a shop, everyone was very pale and the man behind the counter was giving them glasses of water."

For most people caught out by the freak downpour, the drama was over. But for James, Jane and Ellen, things were to take a spooky turn.

The house that was not destroyed. It stands proud to this very morning, part of a late 19th-century terrace, with ornamental figures perched on a balustrade keeping impotent watch over the street. It was inside that havoc was wreaked. And in such a selective, sinister, apparently pre-meditated way, that the inhabitants may never be the same again.

First home that afternoon was Mr Airey. "As soon as I got in, I went to check the answerphone," he says. "That was when I noticed there was no power on the phone. Then I went to switch on the television — it was ladies' final day at Wimbledon — but it wasn't working and the lights were off on the video.

"I didn't know what to think. It was like *The X Files*. Then I made the connection with the storm ..."

Nothing, that is, apart from his 25-inch Sanyo Nicam television and Panasonic Nicam video recorder. And this is where the selectivity of the strike was so sinister. "My home cinema system was my life — or at least, films are the most important thing in my life," says Mr Airey. "I have been collecting videos since 1981 and have 545 of them, they are my library. I had paid about £1,000 for the system two years ago and none of it was insured, because I had just moved in. It was like an act of God. The lightning picked up the most precious things and blasted them."

"My stuff is in a sort of casualty unit for electrical material at Curry's and I am waiting to hear whether it will pull through and be worth repairing."

The main electrical system in the maisonette was unharmed and the lights all worked, except those that were plugged into sockets. Only the things closest to Mr Airey's heart were destroyed. And that

was not the end of it. The lightning also wrecked his answering machine which, since he lives on the top floors, is crucial for admiring party guests.

"I was afraid they would be ringing, thinking that I wasn't in and going away. I ended up having to meet everyone in the pub," he says.

Jane Taylor arrived home later that night and, finding one of the lights not working, chose to go to bed and investigate in the morning. But this Loki among lightning bolts, picking on the journalist, had inflicted its *coup de grâce* in the basement. The electricity

was marked." Ms Reynolds, you see, is one of those people who doesn't have a television.

"A television is just a distraction from the truly important things like reading, and people, and going out," she says.

"I don't think all that violence is really a beneficial thing." And, for her troubles, she nicely avoided the violence of June 6. For she has no computer either, of course. As James Airey puts it, "it was as if the lightning came in and picked on the two technophiles deliberately, while the Luddites got off scot-free".

It is certainly a salutary lesson to the world's

"Just as I got to the front of the taxi rank with my trolley load, dozens of policemen swarmed into the area and cordoned it off, saying there was a bomb scare. I had to walk three miles in boiling hot sun with a trolleyful of food which was defrosted and useless by the time I got home. It was the worst week of my life."

For Jane Taylor, the lightning strike came at the end of an "appalling week" which included a car crash that left her with whiplash.

And embarrassment was to be heaped upon disaster the following day: "I was at a party," she says, "and declaring very dramatically that I had just been struck by lightning. 'Not personally, of course, but my house,' said jokingly. A woman who was listening then said that she had been struck recently, too. Personally. That she had been paralysed and in hospital for three days, that the electricity had been conducted through her body and into a friend, and who had been killed. Suddenly my story wasn't so funny."

And Ellen Reynolds? "My life actually took a turn for the better after the lightning," she beams. "It had been a very anxious time, my flat had been on the market for some time. My brother even suggested advertising it as 'the house that will never be struck by lightning again'. Then suddenly a buyer came through."

James has insured everything now, although his outlook has been forever bleakened. "Every time I leave home, I look up and see a dark cloud moving towards the house," he says. "Occasionally I wake up in the middle of the night and unplug the television aerial."

And Ms Taylor is still spooked by the odd detail: "Why did three sockets and the main plug on the multi-point extension lead for my stereo survive, while one of them blew? And why did James's four speakers survive, though the cinema system was blown?" She also admits to going round at night unplugging all her appliances — and both she and James confess to a neurosis: a trembling apprehension that it really might happen again.

Ellen Reynolds expects to be out of the house by September. James is saving for his new television and video, itching to get back to his 545 videos. And Jane is struggling with pen and paper until her computer is repaired. As the July weather brightens, the pensioners move their deck chairs back on to the pavements, the children appear again on street corners. And the gentle sweating begins again ...

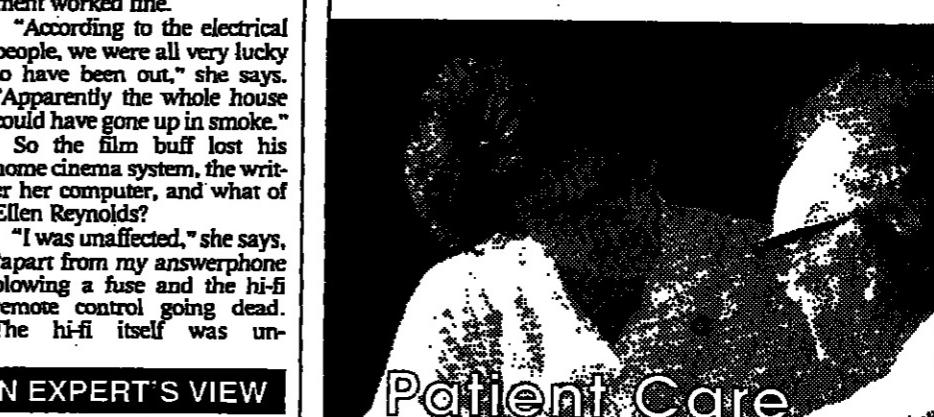
I didn't know what to think. It was like *The X Files*. Then I made the connection with the storm ...

electroboffins to learn which side divine providence comes down on.

And as if the lightning damage were not enough, for both James and Jane it brought with it a week of disasters.

"To begin with it was just problems at work," says civil servant James. "Then I discovered that my washing machine was leaking into the flat below. Worst of all, a couple of days after the strike, I went to Sainsbury's to get a whole month's groceries. I reckoned to get a trolley full of frozen stuff and load it into a cab.

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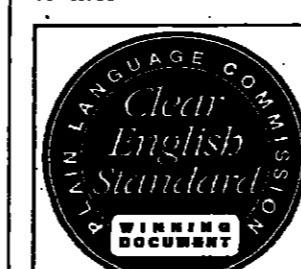
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STANDARDS

John Major on Europe, the economy and why Britain is the best country in the world to live in

'We have an absolute right to say no to a single currency'

by Bruce Anderson

The weather over Downing Street on Tuesday evening was rather like the political climate close and humid, with heavy rain and cracks of thunder. But the atmosphere in the Cabinet Room was surprisingly light, considering that the Prime Minister had had a difficult day in the House, in the aftermath of the ministerial resignation.

That was where we started the interview. Surely David Heathcoat-Amory was right; the Government's position on the single currency was a compromise, on an issue too important for compromises.

Mr Major gave a robust reply. "No, it is not a compromise; it flatly is not a compromise. I say that this is the most important single decision that Europe and this country will take for many years. Whether we go in or whether we stay out, it is going to affect this country, and since it is going to affect this country, I want to be in there up until the last moment negotiating precisely what happens."

"How could I defend my position to the City, to industry — to the British people — if I said that on the most important economic issue for 50 years or more, I was going to withdraw from the debate now, and let the Europeans take the decisions on their own, with no British input, even though we would be vitally affected. For us to opt out of the debate now would be a dereliction of responsibility."

"We do have an absolute right to say no to a single currency, and if it isn't in our national interest to join, we will say no; no one should be in any doubt about that. But if I said now: 'You Europeans get on with it, enjoy yourselves, make up your minds what is right, while we British sit on the sidelines watching,' that would not be credible."

I inquired whether he would be taking the same position if he had a different Chancellor. "I would be taking exactly that position. That is the position I took at Maastricht, when I did have a very different Chancellor. That is the position I set out at the last election: I have taken it consistently and it has not changed."

I complimented him on the effectiveness of his forward defensive stroke, and there was a quick smile: "It is the timing, you know. W.G. Grace used to time his forward defensive strokes so well that the ball went to the boundary." Reverting to the non-cricketing members of the

European Union, I asked Mr Major whether it was possible to march in step. "It is impossible for an enlarged Europe to march in step. Just as you can't regiment people, you can't regiment countries. I happen to think that this is the best country in the world in which to live. I have seen a lot of the world, and this is the country I would most like to live in. I love this country. And I think it is becoming a great success. That is evident to the world at large, but not to much of fashionable opinion in this country. That is what I would like to change."

"Europe began as a regimented central core. But every time it has got bigger, new strains have appeared — hence the need for flexibility. I am absolutely, categorically certain that the EU will have to become a good deal more flexible in the years ahead."

I wondered whether European political leaders would agree? "Politicians may dream dreams, but the real world gets in the way, and the real world demands flexibility."

It was time to switch to

The EU will have to become a good deal more flexible'

domestic politics. Why did he deserve re-election? "I don't think that any prime minister has taken to the nation a better set of economic circumstances upon which to build future prosperity than I will be able to offer at the next election. And we will do so on the back of the worst recession Western Europe has seen for years; we will do so even though the rest of Western Europe has been struggling — even though we all operate in similar economic environment. I will invite people to stand back for a moment and ask themselves why Britain is now outstripping so many of our continental neighbours who face the same difficulties."

What mistakes had he made in his premiership? "All governments make mistakes. They don't necessarily look like mistakes at the time, except to those who have 20/20 hindsight vision. I dare say we have made mistakes like other governments. But we have also got an awful lot right: that is why the economy is in such

good shape. I'll leave my critics to point out my mistakes: they'll enjoy doing that."

Leaving your critics on one side, I continued, what general themes will you be offering the voters at the election? "I will tell you what I would most like to achieve in this country. I happen to think that this is the best country in the world in which to live. I have seen a lot of the world, and this is the country I would most like to live in. I love this country. And I think it is becoming a great success. That is evident to the world at large, but not to much of fashionable opinion in this country. That is what I would like to change."

I know that Britain likes winning. When it becomes clear to people that Britain is winning, winning in the economic-growth league and winning in other ways as well, I believe that you will see the change of opinion, which is already happening, accelerate quite dramatically.

"Britain is a success story, and that's not just a matter of how much money we can put in people's wallets. If we are going to win, we need to win hearts as well as heads. One way to do this is education. We must make sure that this country has the best education system we can credibly have for the money that is available."

Wasn't his enthusiasm for education something of a paradox: his own school days were unhappy and unsuccessful? "I didn't have any education, which is probably why I feel so strongly about it. It was my fault, mind you, nobody else's. But I do think it is important that we develop the right education policy, and I make no secret of the fact that I favour selection, though not the return of the 11-plus."

"I am speaking of a straightforward matter of common sense, which is where most of the best policy comes from. If you look at children around this country, there is an infinite variety and they are all individuals. They have different talents and needs; they seek different opportunities. So should we ram the originality and diversity of our children into a regimented education system? Of course not. We should have an education system which is as diverse and original as the children for whom it caters. Diversity and standards are the core."

I suggested to him that he was really advocating the extension of Thatcherism: Thatcherism for all. The Prime Minister assumed that I was referring to economic policy. "I invite people to look at the number of areas where we have built on Mrs Thatcher's policies. She trail-blazed with the early privatisations, and very sensibly did many of the easier ones first to establish the principle. I agree with the principle: I believe in private ownership; I don't think the Government should own things. That is why we have privatised British Coal, British Rail, and British Energy; difficult privatisations."

"I strongly agreed with what Mrs Thatcher did, and we have carried Thatcherism, if you like, a great deal further in terms of private ownership, standards in schools and counter-inflation. I feel just as strongly about all those as she did."

And opportunity? "I believe in ladders. Ladders of opportunity — whether you are a slum child trying to build a better life for yourself in business or commerce; whether you are someone who wants training; whether you are someone who has never man-

aged to see first-class art but would like to do so."

"My job is not to say to people: 'Here you are, here is what you want, on a plate'. My job is to provide the ladders and then say — work out your goal and aim for it. That is what I mean by the classless society: opportunity for everyone. I don't resent privilege; I have no resentment whatever of privilege. My focus is the other way round — the people who don't have privilege and think that because they are a family with a very low income from an unflattering job, their child may not have the spark of genius to move into something special. History tells us this is nonsense, yet people often believe that they shouldn't do things because of where they come from and who they are."

If it isn't broke, don't fix it. I think the House of Lords is a very effective revising chamber. I don't say that it is perfect in every respect, but basically I think that it is a remarkably British institution with a remarkable history, which has the great virtue of doing what it is there to do. So I wouldn't fiddle around very much at all with the House of Lords."

You have known three Labour leaders, I said — but he interrupted. "Is it not four? Margaret Beckett was leader of the Labour Party for a couple of months. So this is my fourth Labour leader. I wonder what the fifth will be like?"

I asked him what he made of the first three or four: what were their strengths and weaknesses? They were all very different. Neil Kinnock

was a man of oratory and emotion. I had a much greater respect for him than most of the media did. When I dealt with him in private, I always found him absolutely straightforward. He is very Welsh, but he is also very much a Britisher. He had different political opinions from me, but I never detected any difficulty or reluctance in dealing with him.

John Smith and I used to disappear sometimes after meetings to have a large whisky and discuss our respective troubles. We sometimes wondered whether we should swap the odd back-bencher or two. "Do you two Bloggses for . . ." he was obviously searching for a name borne by no current Conservative MP . . . for . . . whatever. Tony Blair I know less well than the others, but our private relations are fine."

"This is very Robbie Burns," he went on. "The rank is but the guinea stamp/A man's a man for all a' that." Then again, you could quote Robbie Burns for almost any party and almost any position . . . and almost any woman, we agreed.

But if he believes in a classless society, what about the House of Lords? "If you are asking me: 'Would you invent the House of Lords today in its present form?', the answer is no. But if you stand back and say: 'Do we have a better way of producing a revising chamber which is independent, but does not challenge the House of Commons?', the answer is also no."

e had once told me that he could never see John Smith as Prime Minister. "I didn't think he would be Prime Minister; no, I didn't believe he would be Prime Minister." So what about Tony Blair? "I don't think he will be Prime Minister either. He and his party are very nervous. They have been sitting on their opinion poll lead for long time, but they are very nervous. Watch the way they panic when anything goes wrong. They panic in spades, and between now and

the next election quite a lot is going to go wrong for them."

It was time to conclude. I pointed out to the Prime Minister that a couple of people who had recently interviewed him for the first time both said the same thing: that

he chuckled as he rose from his chair to submit himself to the attentions of the photographer. He went on chuckling as he said his final words over his shoulder: "Perhaps the other 4 per cent work in the media industry."



"I don't think that any prime minister has taken to the nation a better set of economic circumstances upon which to build future prosperity"

NEIL KINNOCK



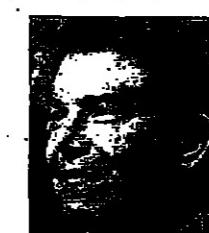
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The politics of the attainable

David Trimble, Ulster Unionist leader, sets out his manifesto

The peace process in Northern Ireland assumed that paramilitary groups recognised the futility of violence and wanted to enter the political forum. The Downing Street Declaration set out a route for this, and we in the Ulster Unionist Party underwrote its principles.

Sinn Féin clearly hoped to obtain significant constitutional concessions in response to the ceasefire. One or more of the Governments involved may have so promised; indeed the framework documents can be read as confirming such promises. But I think Sinn Féin realised that they would have to make a genuine commitment to peace, evidenced by decommissioning, and that while governments may make promises, their delivery in a democracy is subject to a people's consent.

The result was the resumption of violence by Sinn Féin/IRA. The Docklands bomb on February 9 effectively ended the peace process. Unfortunately, the British Government shied away from that conclusion, and redoubled efforts to entice Sinn Féin into the peace process. Yet further bombs, in Britain, Germany and Ulster, the discovery of bomb and mortar factories in the Irish Republic, and the murder of an Irish policeman have driven home that conclusion.

The recent disturbances in Northern Ireland were caused by an IRA threat of violence, which the RUC first capitulated to and then overrode. The public saw the initial surrender as another example of the retreats and concessions of the past two years, and the response by the Ulster British people showed how deeply the Government had overdrawn on their reserves of confidence and forbearance. Then the response from nationalists to the second police decision showed how far the Hume-Adams pact and the unrealistic expectations aroused by the peace process have undermined the SDLP.

Yet the political process can be rebuilt. It will not produce a solution satisfactory to the extremes — but that was never really possible. The talks should be refocused on the constitutional parties and on what is achievable. More can be achieved than is generally recognised in England.

We in the Ulster Unionist Party have developed proposals for a regional assembly in which all could share on an equal basis. The key is the principle of proportionality. Elections to the assembly should be by proportional representation, and the assembly should discharge its functions proportionally. It would work through committees formed in proportion to party strengths, with the offices of chairman and deputy chairman also shared proportionately between the parties.

Such an assembly would work best if it were essentially administrative. It would probably not work if it had to cope with any major policy choices. But nobody in Northern Ireland is suggesting the local equivalent of a "tartan tax". Financial power would re-

main in Westminster, so major policies would be determined there. Full participation in national politics, denied to us by direct rule, would be essential. It is not a choice between integration and devolution; both are necessary.

A regional assembly and reform at Westminster are only part of what can be achieved.

For many years it has been accepted by all Ulster parties that individual human rights should be protected by the incorporation of the European Convention of Human Rights.

Now the debate has moved on to a consideration of the collective rights of religious, cultural and national groups.

Ulster is not unique. There are many cases in Europe of disputes between cultural and national groups, and Europe has developed codes of law and practice to deal with them — not in the supra-national institutions of the EU, but in the Minority Rights Convention of the Council of Europe and the accords and charters of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. We have urged their application in Ulster. It may then be discovered that compared, for example, to the Hungarian minorities in Slovakia and Romania, the Irish nationalist minority in Ulster is well protected. The chief lesson will probably be for the Republic, which has behaved in a way that would not be tolerated on the European mainland; but there are lessons for Britain as well.

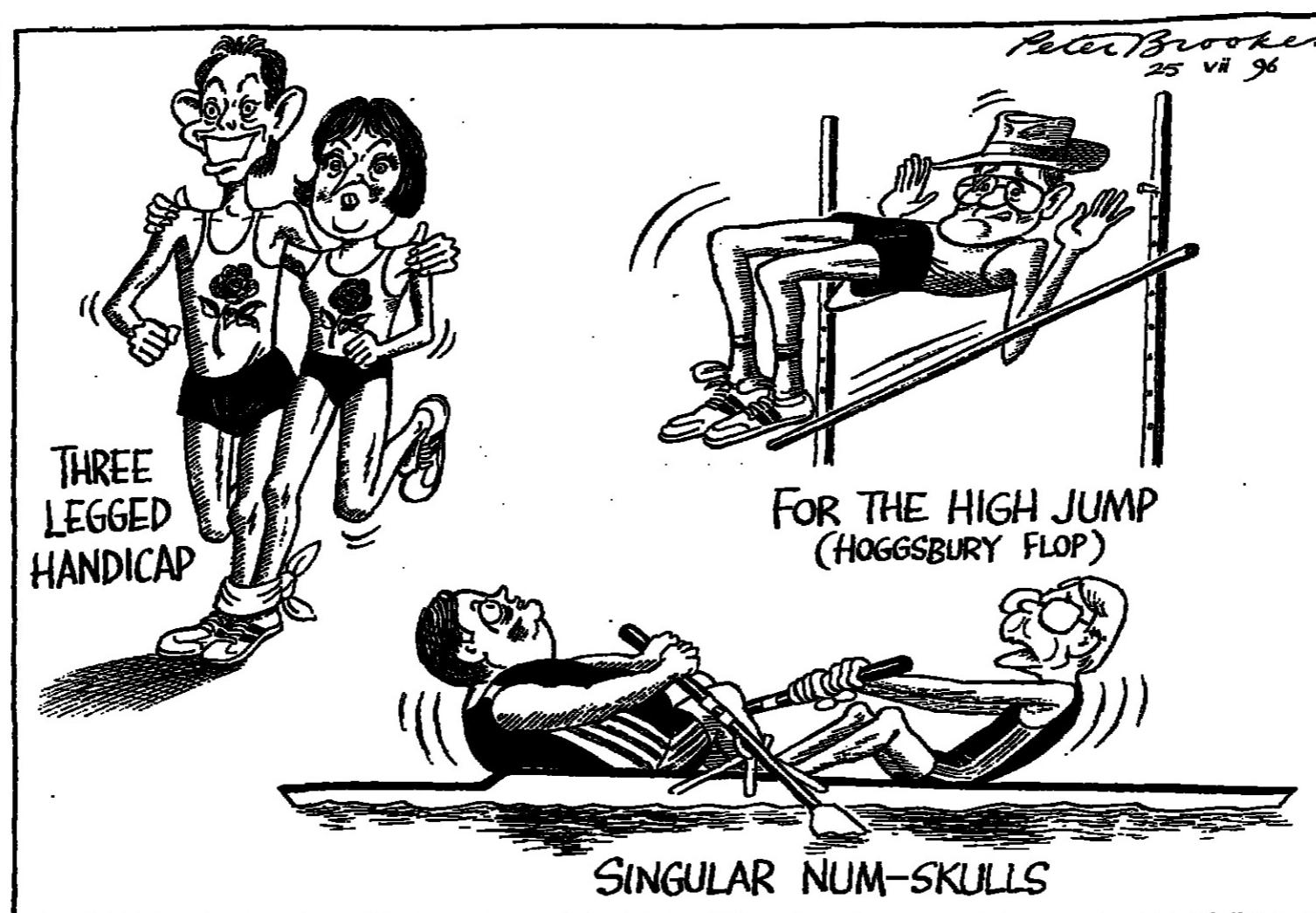
These principles condemn both the irredentist Irish territorial claim and the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The latter permits constant Irish interference in Ulster's internal affairs, without any reciprocal obligations on the Irish Government. It also treats the Ulster people as unequal to their fellow British citizens.

Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic do have a special relationship, but for both parts of the island, the economic, social, cultural and political interactions across the Irish Sea with their larger neighbour are far more important.

These realities should be recognised by the creation of a Council of the British Isles, within which interaction and co-operation between North and South would be accommodated. All such co-operation should be voluntary, and must exclude the present exercise by Dublin of governmental authority within our part of the United Kingdom.

We believe that it is possible to build a substantial, if not an all-embracing consensus around these ideas.

Indeed we came close to doing so in the 1992 talks. Unfortunately, after 1992 the Government failed to build on that limited consensus. This time, I hope it will do more. All we can do is talk and strive for agreement. This we have done; this we will do. But the only party with the power to make change is the Government. It must be prepared to divest itself of the virtually dictatorial powers it enjoys under direct rule and shares with the Irish Government.



How Eden erred at Suez

Forty years on, Britain's last imperial adventure seems to belong to another world — even to a participant

When events one has seen become history, it gives one a strange feeling, like a goose walking over one's grave. The Suez crisis, which began 40 years ago tomorrow, is now almost as remote as the Boer War. The leading figures, including Anthony Eden, President Nasser, President Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles, are long since dead. Their states of mind are so different from those of the 1990s as to be hard to recapture. Subsequent events have proved many of their expectations to have been false.

I had an insider's view. In 1955, as a young journalist on the *Financial Times*, I was asked by a publisher to write a brief life of the new Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden. He agreed to give me some access, a few early letters and a couple of hours reminiscences, sitting together in deckchairs in the garden of Downing Street. We got on well together, and I was asked to help his speechwriting team with the economic arguments.

In the summer of 1956, I was chosen to fight a by-election in Chester-le-Street, a safe Labour seat among Durham miners. Nasser made his speech announcing the nationalisation of the Suez Canal in late July. My by-election in September turned out to be the only one fought in the crisis period.

The Conservative Party Conference was held at Llandudno early in October, with a big policy speech from the Prime Minister. At the end of October, in secret collusion with Israel, Britain invaded Egypt; in November, under American pressure, we withdrew; in January, Eden resigned, partly on grounds of ill health, and partly because the policy had collapsed. Harold Macmillan became Prime Minister.

Both Eden and Nasser had got it wrong. Eden believed that the British imperial tradition was still strong enough to allow us to play a major part in the politics of the Middle East, that British influence in the oil-producing countries was a national asset which could still be defended and used. The truth was that Britain no longer had the power to carry out this role, which had already passed to the United States. If there were to be Western intervention again, it would be American-led, as in the Gulf War.

Nasser saw himself as the hero of Arab nationalism, which he thought could be based on Egypt. He focused Arab hostility on Israel. He distrusted, and even despised, the traditional Arab rulers. He would have been amazed and even disgusted to learn that 40 years later kings and sheikhs would still be ruling Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait and the Gulf States, and disappointed to learn that Israel has survived, is at peace with Egypt and is even making peace with the Palestinians. He was hostile to Islamic fundamentalism, and greatly underrated its power.

The last stages of Eden's political career were a personal as well as a public tragedy, though he had a surprisingly happy period of private life in retirement. In deciding that he had to meet the challenge that Nasser had thrown down, he turned from a lifetime of skilful diplomacy to the role of a man of action. He was not temperamentally suited to that role. At the end of my biography I attempted an assessment of his position immediately before Suez. It contains a sentence I now find surprising: "One can go through his career and scarcely find an issue of foreign policy on which he has been proved wrong." I was considerably more critical of his domestic policy.

No doubt my praise of Eden's judgment in foreign affairs went too far.

Yet in 1956 it did not strike people as odd. His resignation early in 1958 in protest at Chamberlain's appeasement policy, his wartime role and his part in the development of the post-war institutions, his leadership of the Geneva Conference on South-East Asia in 1954, were all great achievements. Yet now he is remembered largely for Suez.

Why did he do it? There was strong political pressure to take some action, very much like the emotional pressures in the first days after the Argentine invasion of the Falklands. When I went up to Chester-le-Street

in September, I toured the constituency in an old-fashioned loudspeaker van, urging the Durham miners not to "appease Colonel Nasser". They had no more wish to appease Nasser than Eden did, and thought the Labour leader, Hugh Gaitskell, was being rather wet. But of course they voted Labour, as they always did.

Eden was too serious about international policy to do what he thought was wrong because the public wanted it. In many of his speeches, and in all his private conversation, he reverted to the analogy of the rise of Hitler. He saw Nasser as a dictator,

which he was, and considered that aggressive dictators could be stopped only by early and firm action. He blamed himself, as a young Foreign Secretary, for having failed to oppose the German remilitarisation of the Rhineland in March 1936, which he looked back on as the last time Hitler could have been stopped without a world war. To a large extent he made his mistake at Suez because he wanted to avoid repeating what he had come to regard as his mistake over the Rhineland, 20 years earlier.

Today, we tend to think of Nasser as less dangerous than he was. Eden was probably right about Nasser's intentions. He did hope to dominate the Middle East, which would have been damaging to Europe and the United States. He was not a mad dictator like Hitler, but he was an expansionist and a nationalist, like Mussolini. He was a charismatic leader, but not a cooperative statesman. He did hope to destroy the existing Arab monarchies, the state of Israel and Western influence in the Middle East. Eden's mistake lay not so much in comparing the threat of Nasser in 1956 to that of Hitler in 1936, but in comparing the Arabs of the 1950s to the Germans

of the 1930s. The Arabs were not a united nation; the Germans were.

Eden also retained too much of what one could call the Second World War consciousness. Both the Anglo-American alliance and the idea of vast strategic decisions stood for him where they had in 1945. He recognised that John Foster Dulles, the American Secretary of State, was an opponent, but he did not believe that Eisenhower, his war-time partner, Ike, would turn on him when it came to the point. Perhaps if Eden had delayed until after the American presidential election, Ike would have been more helpful, but perhaps not. Eden did not recognise how far British power had already declined. Britain had been a world power in the Second World War, but was one no longer. The failure of his Suez policy only advertised that unpalatable fact.

The economic arguments, which I had to draft for the conference speech, and for some of the later crisis speeches, were stronger than is now supposed. What Eden feared was that Nasser would get a grip both on the Suez Canal and ultimately on the Arab oilfields. That would allow him to control the oil supply and the oil price, to do what Opec, the Arab oil-producers' cartel, was able to do in the 1970s. This, Eden thought, would lead possibly to world war, but certainly to crippling economic damage. Until Opec came along, his fears proved unfounded, but only because Nasser failed to create a universal Arab nationalism, not because he had not done it if he could.

As the crisis developed, there were many stories that Anthony Eden was emotionally unstable, was taking amphetamines, lost his temper in Cabinet, and so on. He did have a hysterical temper, like his father, though I never saw him lose it. At the speech-drafting meetings he was calm, reasonable, decisive, courteous and always in command of himself. He was a difficult man to write speeches for, as he hated striking phrases and would always take them out of any text. He thought they did more harm than good. He was wrong about Suez, wrong about Britain's position, wrong about the Arabs, wrong about the United States. But he made a historic blunder for intelligible reasons. Suez was the dramatic end of the British Empire, Act Five Scene Five, and it has become his epitaph.

Labour's comedy of shadows

This election must be the last, says Gerald Kaufman

Let us raise our glasses to the newly elected Shadow Cabinet (for some of whom I voted). And let us drink a toast, too, to the ardent hope that this is the last Labour Shadow Cabinet ever to be elected.

Within a few months, Tony Blair may well be forming a real Cabinet. I trust that should Labour ever then go back into opposition — in the remote future — it will not go back to electing Shadow Cabinets. Over the past 40 years, ever since Hugh Gaitskell took over the leadership, Labour has pretended to be in government when in opposition by populating its front bench with vast numbers of spokesmen and women presided over by an elected Shadow Cabinet.

The first post-war Shadow Cabinet was a gentlemanly and informal apparatus. Its members, appointed by Winston Churchill, met each week for lunch at the Savoy, and over brandy and cigars were assigned responsibility for the next week's parliamentary business. The idea of permanent portfolios, and teams under them, would not have appealed to Churchill.

As for their being elected, no such nonsense would have occurred to him in the 1940s, and was not considered even when the Tories were last in opposition, in the 1970s. If there had been an elected Shadow Cabinet, Ted Heath would not have been able to sack Enoch Powell for making his speech about the "Tiber foaming with much blood".

Labour, however, has always had a propensity to elect people to things, whether to its National Executive Committee or to its Parliamentary Committee, which is the proper name of the Shadow Cabinet. Since the brotherhood for which the Labour Party is renowned is, more often than one would wish, comparable to that of Cain and Abel, such elections have not always brought out the best in Labour MPs. Allegations of plumping, of deals, of wrecking candidacies — outrageous and almost unthinkable as such occurrences may seem — have not been unknown.

Moreover, these elections have taken on a life of their own. When I became an MP in 1970, the Shadow Cabinet consisted of 12 elected members, plus the leader, deputy leader and chief whip — these last three also elected by the parliamentary party.

The "democratic" reforms of the early 1980s ended Labour MPs' right to elect the leader and deputy, but they struck back by deciding that the deputy chief whip and the pairing whip should also be elected. They expanded the Shadow Cabinet first to 15 and then — when obligatory votes were imposed — to 18.

When last year Tony Blair got the parliamentary party to do away with the nonsense of electing whips, he made the uncharacteristic mistake of expanding the elected Shadow Cabinet to 19. Under these top dogs are ranged scores of junior spokesmen and women, who have sometimes seemed to outnumber the Tory ministers who are their counterparts.

The democracy of the 1980s shackled the leader to an additional nonsense, namely that Labour wins an election, all the members of the Shadow Cabinet have to become members of the Cabinet. When the Shadow Cabinet consisted of only 12 members then, even with leader, deputy leader, and representatives from the Labour peers, there was scope for the new prime minister to appoint Cabinet ministers from outside. We have now reached the ridiculous pass where there may not be room in the Cabinet for all members of the Shadow Cabinet, let alone talented others.

The leader still has scope to decide which shadow portfolios to award to his Shadow Cabinet. Hugh Gaitskell once resolved to punish Harold Wilson, whom he thought too successful as Shadow Chancellor, by moving him to the then less prestigious role of Shadow Foreign Secretary. Wilson, asked if he minded, said: "Not at all. I'll need to learn about foreign affairs if I'm to be prime minister."

Tony Blair was said to be anxious, this year, not to have Shadow Cabinet elections. He was, it was rumoured, ready to continue to put up with Mr X and even with Ms Y if he could retain Ms Z. When the Labour Party's obsession with internal democracy turned out to be too much even for him, he deliberately made the elections a farce by discouraging non-Shadow Cabinet frontbenchers from standing.

In advocating the abolition of Shadow Cabinet elections, I cannot be accused of sour grapes. I was elected to the Shadow Cabinet more times (12) than any other currently sitting Labour MP and — if I may be forgiven such conceit (and even if not) — I set the record, by coming top of the poll four times. Nevertheless, it is time this comedy was ended.

Before the democratic reforms imposed in the 1980s by the hard Left, Labour won eight general elections. Since it became ultra-democratic, it has not won once. My reverence for Tony Blair (all right, sycophancy) being inexhaustible, I am confident that this lesson has not been lost on him. It is time Labour MPs turned their attention entirely to winning elections against the Tories, rather than winning elections against each other.

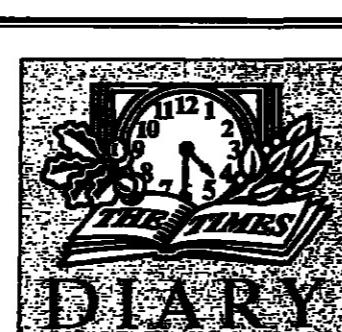
American way

CONTRARY to her wishes, there will be no plumed horses or glass-sided hearse to take Jessica Mitford to her funeral. Instead, this arch-critic of America's venal funeral business, who died on Tuesday, aged 78, will be cremated in private before an all-American memorial service at the Delaney Street Foundation, a drug rehabilitation centre in San Francisco.

Only last month, Mitford was talking about how she wanted a proper Victorian send-off, saying: "Six black horses with white plumes, and I certainly want to be embalmed."

Speaking from Mitford's California home, her son-in-law, Terry Weber, said: "It will be a normal, American service with some of Jessica's favourite hymns. There will be no horses or glass-sided hearse. The funeral cortège will consist only of limousines." The Duchess of Devonshire, Mitford's sister, was unaware of these preparations for the send-off.

Mitford was a longtime supporter of the Delaney Street Foundation, which is more used to holding political rallies than funerals. "We can accommodate any event, but we are particularly keen to accommodate Jessica," said Douglas Stermer, from the centre. "She was



The Japanese translated this as teaching Her Majesty to swim.

Dragged out

THE LATEST weapon in the Republicans' so-far soggy assault on President Clinton is Democratic Reefer Man. Reefer Man is a response to the Democrats' Buttman, a man camouflaged as a six-foot cigarette, who hovered behind Bob Dole at rallies taunting him for his links with the tobacco industry.

The Republicans' answer is a giant walking marijuana joint, who follows President Clinton around, scolding him for his lax approach to drugs.

The new Transport Minister, John Bowes, will find in his ministerial desk a present from his predecessor, Steven Norris, placed there before the reshuffle. In a brown envelope in the top left

hand drawer is a folded pair of Lycra cycling shorts with a message: "By God, you'll need them." Bowes, whose shapely frame brings to mind Oliver Hardy, will find them a tight squeeze.

Big man

THERE HAS been a further sighting of the film star, Marion Brando, whose monogrammed frame poses the ultimate test for accomplished tailors. Just days after my report of his admiration for the food in Chigwell comes news of his passion for Petersfield grub.

Brando recently dined at the Old Stable restaurant in the Hampshire town with two lady friends. "He had a huge meal with us in the middle of the afternoon," reports a member of staff. "Where most people would have had one dish, he chose two or three. And then he went straight on to the cream tea menu." He pecked the cheek of the manageress as he departed. She still hasn't washed it. He's awesome.

His wife, Marina, a 52-year-old marchioness, is threatening to take off her clothes to express solidarity. "She is saying she will strut about naked to make her point," says another Italian blue-blood. "It wouldn't be the first time."

At the French Embassy in Rome, Marina derobed in disgust at nuclear testing in the Pacific. Later, she appeared starkers on billboards across the country in a campaign for the International Animal Welfare fund. Few doubt that we will see her in full splendour again.

● The sudden resignation of Jane Atkinson, the public relations adviser to the Prince of Wales, reduces Diana's office to just three secretaries. They will presumably become the highest-paid letter-openers in the business, for the royal divorce settlement sets aside £400,000 per year for the Princess's office expenses.

P.H.S.



Olympic protesters Carlo and Marina Ripa Di Meana

J. T. 1996



END-OF-TERM REPORT

Both party leaders have their problems; both need a break

Like many political summers, this one has been long, hot and fractious. Labour and Conservative MPs departing for their holidays today leave their parties behind in some disarray, with pockets of mutiny and dangers of splits. The Labour leader is accused by his rebels of being too strong; the Tory leader of being too weak. Yesterday John Major tried to dispel that image in an end-of-term interview with *The Times* by refusing to rule out joining a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament.

There is no going back on this now. The Prime Minister asserted that it would be "a dereliction of responsibility" to withdraw from the debate on how the single currency would work. It is a little misleading to suggest that Britain would lose its seat on the important committees were it to forgo membership of the first wave of entrants to the single currency. But the words are cast now; and any sceptic who might have hoped that David Heathcoat-Amory's departure would lead to a subtle rethink over the summer will be disappointed.

Politics virtually shut down from now until the party conferences. Each leader claims to be quietly confident, but which has greater cause for cheer? Mr Major has been waiting a painfully long time for the polls to turn his way. Last month's blip in his favour may or may not presage a recovery; whether this was a short burst of patriotic football fever or the beginning of a more sustained improvement will be clearer when our July poll results are published next week.

The "New Labour, New Dangers" campaign was hastily put out before the recess with a somewhat shaky start. It remains to be seen whether voters interpret the message as an admission that Tony Blair has really changed his party or, as the Tories intended, as an effective warning.

The difficulty for Conservative strategists is that, each time they alert potential Labour

voters to a danger, Mr Blair removes it. So, as soon as the Tories claim that Labour will impose an unwanted parliament and "tarzan tax" on Scotland, Labour promises a referendum first to let the Scots make up their own minds. As fast as the Tories say that Labour will sign Britain up for the single currency, Mr Blair and Robin Cook start making more sceptical noises.

So what remains? The threat of removing voting rights for hereditary peers is hardly enough to send wavering Tories back to safety. Tax and the social chapter still have some power; but Mr Blair is unlikely to go into the next election without a pledge to keep taxes as they are for all but the richest. And the social chapter is already being imposed on Britain by the back door.

But if the Labour leader is difficult for the Tories to nail, he is not immune from problems of his own. He has been sailing choppy waters in the past month or two, and will be relieved that, after last night's Shadow Cabinet poll, his parliamentary party will have no more weapons left to use against him between now and the poll that really matters. With his current lead in public opinion, the election is still Mr Blair's to lose. But he knows as well as anybody that sustained ill-discipline in a party can turn voters away frighteningly fast.

Both leaders will try to use their party conferences as launchpads for the general election campaign, which will run continuously from October until the day itself. Both will pray that the temptation to make trouble will be overcome by the desire to win. But the troublemakers have an eye on events after the election: the Tories are limbering up for a battle for the soul of the party, Labour for a chance to influence what Mr Blair could actually do in government. The two party leaders badly need a rest: there will be a long, cold autumn, winter and spring to come.

AFTER BOUTROS

This time, the UN need not and must not settle for the third-rate

Boutros Boutros Ghali will not now slide unopposed into a second five-year term as United Nations Secretary-General at the end of this year. Fresh blood will take over. America, which ensured this by announcing last month that it would veto him, has done the world a needed service. No international position of this importance should be filled by default, or by lazy adherence to unwritten and inappropriate conventions. Mr Boutros Ghali's decision to fight it out is a folly that will further damage an institution whose reputation has plummeted since he took the helm in 1992. His stubbornness is all the more unbecoming, given that the Americans are doing no more than hold him to his categorical statement, when he first sought the job, that he would serve only one term.

Now America has aimed another blow at rotten UN practices, by announcing that it will investigate any use of the UN secretariat's staff and resources to promote his re-election campaign. The Secretary-General's aides denounced this as "disgraceful disinformation" worthy of the McCarthy era. It is nothing of the kind; and to permit such a response casts yet more doubt on Mr Boutros Ghali's pallid claims to be a reformer.

The US is entirely right to question why Lansana Kouyaté, a UN official responsible for Africa, was openly lobbying for Mr Boutros Ghali at this month's summit of the Organisation of African Unity. UN civil servants owe their allegiance to the organisation: they are defending the man, not the institution, when they give press conferences at which UN spokesmen read out old speeches by President Clinton praising the Secretary-General, or suggest — contrary to the rules of the Charter — that the US veto could be overturned by the General Assembly.

One of the strongest reasons for introducing non-renewable single terms for UN chief

executives is the political and administrative corruption, documented in case after case, that has accompanied UN re-election campaigns. Mr Boutros Ghali may have sound reasons for absenting himself from New York for seven weeks, in the longest trip undertaken by any Secretary-General. But it looks like electioneering more than it looks like devotion to UN business. Stones should not be hurled from glass houses.

The challenge now is to turn the American veto to good use. Prominent UN members must stop pretending that all this is nothing to do with them. The veto opens up the race, but that is only half the battle. There are limits to Washington's ability to lobby for suitable candidates. Part of this is America's fault: its failure to pay more than \$1 billion of legally-owned UN contributions opens it to the charge of blackmailing the UN. But even if it were fully paid-up, there would still be an anti-American backlash against a successor favoured by Mr Clinton. Other countries must act. None is doing so, not even Britain.

This is an abnegation of its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council, which under the UN Charter is responsible for choosing a candidate to put forward to a General Assembly vote. Before the UN sinks into its August siesta, Britain should insist that the Security Council formally invite governments to submit nominations, and announce that it will publish the short-list so that the merits of the candidates can be openly compared. Such obvious choices as Mrs Sadako Ogata, the highly-praised UN Commissioner for Refugees, will not come forward unless they are actively persuaded to do so. The alternative is a repeated US veto of Mr Boutros Ghali until some uninspiring compromise candidate is plucked in despair out of the woodwork. It does not bear contemplating.

A SPORTING CHANCE

Broadening the base offers the best hope of success

As Britain struggles to win medals at the Atlanta Olympics, few would begrudge a plan to identify sporting talent and nurture it all the way to the top. So the Government's set of announcements offering a new impetus to sport in Britain deserve their warm reception. The policies outlined by the Prime Minister yesterday, and detailed in *Sport: Raising the Game*, include many overdue initiatives.

Mr Major plans to revive sport in schools, permitting certain specialist colleges to select students on the basis of athletic ability; to rescue 220 recreational sites that might otherwise have been sold for development; and to set up a new British Academy of Sport. All will be generously funded from National Lottery money, exactly the use for which it was intended.

The most eye-catching element has been the academy, modelled on the one in Australia. Supporters claim that its hot-house atmosphere will concentrate talent, know-how and motivation. There is a case for caution: Government may prove no better at picking winners in this sphere than in the economic domain. And not all budding Olympians will want to leave home to attend a boarding school.

Moreover, excellence in British sport has often sprung from the most unlikely pockets dotted around the country. From Oxford to Gateshead, Coventry to Haringey, groups of

Tamil resistance to Colombo rule

From Mr S. Pothalingam

Sir, Tamil dissent — a civilised passive dissent — has been transformed by decades of harsh racist oppression into an effective military machine. The LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) is a natural phenomenon of human history.

In your admiration for the Sri Lankan President, Mrs Kumara Ratnayake (leading article, "Defeat for peace", July 23), you appear to overlook Tamil sensitivities.

The hoisting of the Colombo Government's flag in Jaffna last December was a display of "racial supremacy" to humiliate the Tamils; it was not a gesture towards peace and amity.

It would be absurd for anyone to imagine that the Tamils would ever be reconciled to living under military dictatorship in the Jaffna peninsula. Mrs Kumara Ratnayake has prevented the presence of foreign journalists who could inform the world of what is going on in the north and east of the island.

Your concern for peace in Sri Lanka is admirable, but in my view the way to achieve this is for the international community to impose an arms embargo and apply economic, cultural and sporting sanctions against the Colombo Government until it calls off its military onslaught on the Tamil homeland.

Yours faithfully,
S. POTHALINGAM,
Geneva Lodge,
23 St Mary's Avenue, E11.
July 23.

From Mr M. Thiagarajan

Sir, Your leading article states that "Despite its terrorist nature, the LTTE has no difficulty raising funds from Tamil communities abroad: the historical memory of Sinhalese atrocities keeps the money flowing — an estimated £250,000 a month from Britain alone."

But this figure is tiny compared with Sri Lanka's £500 million military budget for 1996, referred to in your leading article, a sum which, in my opinion, would be better spent improving the life of Sri Lankans rather than killing innocent Tamils.

Yours faithfully,
M. THIAGARAJAN,
24 Brook Avenue,
Edgware, Middlesex.
July 23.

British history

From Mr John Parfitt

Sir, Pace Mr Simon Ellis (letter, July 19) and his enthusiasm for modern history, perhaps it would be better if young people learn how a funny little island off the coast of Europe which in 1588 had less than half the population of Spain and barely half that of France, had just lost the last of its continental possessions, had been devaulving its currency against the continents for half a century, had to import Flemings and Germans to run its infant industry and had just narrowly escaped becoming a Spanish satrapy, managed to lay the foundations of a maritime prosperity which has kept us rich and powerful for 400 years.

The parallels with today are interesting, the disregard of them by our present politicians is frightening. The first Queen Elizabeth would have chopped most of their heads off.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN PARFITT,
St Andrews, New Street,
Painswick, Gloucestershire.
July 19.

From Mr Donald Franks

Sir, I disagree with Simon Ellis about priorities in the teaching of history. Henry VIII and Oliver Cromwell are far more relevant than Jack and the Beanstalk or Robin Hood. They are two prominent cornerstones upon which the terrible edifice of the present troubles in Ireland are built.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD FRANKS,
10 Polweth Road, SW16.
July 19.

Asylum seekers

From Mr Chris Furey

Sir, Once again we have a religious leader calling on the Government to look to its responsibilities for society (letter, July 22; other letters, July 15).

I am sure that Rabbi Julia Neuberger's parents, as refugees from the Nazis, were welcomed here with love, by people of the Jewish and, I hope, non-Jewish faith. It was their fellow men and women who responded to the plight of such refugees. That is how it should be.

We should be proud that Britain is a haven and long may it continue. But it is its people who should show love and take responsibility personally for the asylum-seekers. Putting the burden on the Government demeans us all. The more effort we put into institutionalising love the more it will continue to be eroded from our society.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS FUREY,
4 Cadogan Court,
Mulgrave Road, Sutton, Surrey.
July 22.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Why World Service merits reprieve

From Mr Ernest Warburton

Sir, From 1990 to 1995 I was privileged to be Editor of the BBC World Service's English network (letters, June 19; July 5, 17, 19). For most of that time the World Service enjoyed the dynamic and committed leadership of John Tusa as managing director, and for all of it the strong support of Douglas Hurd as Foreign Secretary.

Government gave us more money to make new and better programmes. For the first time ever we were able to achieve more realistic staffing levels in English production departments and to operate News Intake round the clock.

We could afford projects which sent producers and presenters abroad to meet the audiences; they returned with a much clearer idea of what the listeners really wanted and a fiercer determination to serve them better. The result was massive increase — getting on for 50 per cent in the size of the audience for the English service.

Times change and different circumstances call for different responses. However, some general principles remain. You get what you pay for. Every successful organisation requires high degree of commitment and mutual respect from its leaders and its workforce. To be competitive any product must be the best of its kind, what the customer wants and delivered with the least possible inconvenience to him.

Any successful entrepreneur also knows that all markets are not the same and is careful to meet the special needs of every one of them. That is why Mr Birt is right to retain a production presence in Cardiff, Glasgow and Belfast to cater for the culturally

specific needs of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

However, if the BBC needs producers and reporters in Glasgow to remain competitive and credible in Scotland, it also needs them in Bush House and in the field to be competitive and credible in Ulster and Abidjan, Washington and Brussels. If they really can no longer be afforded, that is a different matter and one Mr Rikford ought seriously to consider if he wants the BBC World Service to remain the force it has become.

Yours sincerely,
ERNEST WARBURTON,
10a Park Avenue,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
July 23.

From Mr Rupert Calvile

Sir, I first stepped off this small island when I was 25 years old (I am now 36). Within a couple of weeks of arriving in Cairo, I was a World Service addict.

Since then, I have lived in a number of countries — and never found any World Service listener, of any age or nationality, who did not admire its news service and in some cases depend on it. For an expatriate Briton, frequently embarrassed by his homeland's increasingly parochial outlook on the world, the World Service has been one consistent cause for national pride — in fact recently virtually the only cause for national pride.

The BBC Governors can and should halt this ill-thought-out plan.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT CALVILLE,
Rue de Rive 32,
1260 Nyon, Switzerland.
July 24.

Tragic lesson of vintage aircrashes

From Mr David A. Horton

Sir, Sunday's tragic vintage aircraft crash, the De Havilland Mosquito at Barton aerodrome (report, July 22), closely followed accidents to the Lockheed P38 Lightning at Duxford and Bristol Freighter at Easton (reports, July 15, 19). Recent years have seen Hurricane, Sea Fury, Blenheim, Invader (the list goes on) all destroyed, often with fatal consequences to highly experienced and respected pilots.

I am not suggesting a common cause for these accidents; however, although technically "airworthy" and maintained to extremely high standards, many of these aeroplanes were created under the stress of wartime conditions. Testing and refining them were not as extensive as for today's aircraft and inevitably produced aircraft with certain "quirks". These machines were designed to fulfil a specific role at that time, warts and all.

Operating classic and vintage aircraft is very costly. Income is dependent on air displays where, by flying low, the aircraft can be seen to best advantage. I do not wish to ground vintage aircraft, but I believe that operators should now seriously consider restricting displays to simple manoeuvres only.

The competence of those unfortunate pilots who have sacrificed themselves in giving the paying public delight and nostalgia is undoubtedly; however, they are in most cases probably used to flying modern state-of-the-art aeroplanes which rarely develop serious faults. When problems arise with machines fifty or more years old, as unfortunately they are liable to do, even the most experienced pilot may not be equipped to deal with them.

Aircraft museums are burgeoning and long may they be supported; but, please, let us give further thought to how these few precious aircraft are displayed.

Yours hopefully,
D. A. HORTON
(Senior lecturer, Aviation Studies,
London Guildhall University,
26 The Crescent,
Slough, Berkshire.
July 23.

It could be them

From Mr Edward Frewin

Sir, According to your report today (later editions), "Camelot delays bonus payments to discourage its directors from leaving".

What appalling conditions must the directors be working under that sanctions of this magnitude are required to prevent a mass exodus of the board?

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD FREWIN,
Olden Oak, 103 Reading Road,
Woodley, Reading, Berkshire.
July 16.

Have no fear

From Mr Ian Chapman

Sir, Mr Roger Cookson asks (letter, July 23) if his dentist is alone in having a Bible in his waiting room. Surely, Mr Cookson answers his own question: a man with a Bible in his waiting room can never be alone.

Perhaps the question should be: "At which verse should the Book be left open?" Why, Exodus xxi, 24, of course! Eye for eye, tooth for tooth ...".

Yours faithfully,
IAN R. CHAPMAN,
39 Greenhayes Avenue,
Banstead, Surrey.
July 23.

From Mr Roger Cooper

Sir, Mr Cookson's dentist obviously wants him to take comfort from the many passages in the Bible that are relevant to his profession. For example "And I will take his blood out of his mouth, and his abominations from between his teeth" (Zechariah ix, 7).

Does he clean his teeth properly, or use his dental floss regularly?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER COOPER,
2 Wolsey Road,
Moor Park, Northwood, Middlesex.
July 23.

From Mr Tony Douglass

Sir, I once saw a framed text over the oral hygienist's door, from Amos iv, 6: "... and I also have given you cleanliness of teeth ...".

Yours gnashingly but not wailing,
TONY DOUGLASS,
Knipp Cottage, Chiddington, Surrey.

July 23.

From Ms Elizabeth Mawer

Sir, My dentist goes one better. He has a copy of the Koran too.

OBITUARIES

JESSICA MITFORD

Jessica Mitford, writer, died in Oakland, California, on July 23 aged 78. She was born at Batsford, Gloucestershire, on September 11, 1917.

JESSICA MITFORD was the daughter of a talented but famously unpredictable family. She was one of seven children (six of them girls) born to the 2nd Lord Redesdale. One sister was the novelist Nancy Mitford, author of *Love in a Cold Climate*. Two others became Fascists in the 1930s — Unity, a camp follower of Hitler, and Diana, who married Sir Oswald Mosley. Another, Deborah, married the 11th Duke of Devonshire. Jessica went her own way politically, rejected her aristocratic roots, fled to America and joined the Communist Party. In 1960 she wrote the first of her books, *Hons and Rebels*.

There were few girls, even of her class and generation, who had a more eccentric upbringing than the Hon Jessica Lucy Mitford. Both parents hoped for a large family of boys, and a period of mourning at the family home ensued after the birth of each new girl. While the only son in the family, Thomas, went to Eton, private education was regarded as an unnecessary extravagance for the six sisters, and they were taught instead by their mother from illustrated books.

Jessica's terrifying father (known as "Farve") turned the family home of Swinbrook, in the Cotswolds, into a self-contained fortress to deter the alarming prospect of visits from outsiders. As Jessica later wrote in *Hons and Rebels*, "outsiders" to her father included "Huns, Frogs, Americans, blacks and all other foreigners, but also other people's children, the majority of my older sisters' acquaintances, almost all young men". However, Redesdale was not really prejudiced, in the sense that he did not discriminate between different types of foreigners. When one of Jessica's cousins married an Argentinian of pure Spanish descent, he commented: "I hear that Robin's married a black."

Jessica, the fifth daughter, was given the family name of "Decca". She yearned for more social contact with other children, and visited the local grammar school, on an independent initiative, at the age of 11 to discuss becoming a pupil. Her mother greeted the idea when she returned home with "What nonsense, of course not!" Instead, to single her out from her dauntingly athletic, artistic and beautiful sisters, Jessica began to read her way through the family library, and had devoured the collected works of Bertrand Russell by the age of 12. At 15 she wrote her first novel. She declared herself an atheist and, when her sister Unity decided to become a Fascist, pronounced herself a Communist as well. Their political feud was intended as a joke at first but gradually Jessica's views hardened.

Jessica had opened a "running away" account with her bank manager as a girl, and the fund stood at £50 by the time she was presented at court, by now a very pretty young woman with huge china blue eyes. Life in Swinbrook continued with its stultifying rituals. It was at this point that she



began to develop a fascination for Esmond Romilly, her distant cousin, and a nephew of Clementine Churchill.

In 1936 he had enlisted in the International Brigade in Spain as their youngest volunteer. Jessica had followed his adventures from England and, when he returned home on sick leave, she plotted to meet him. They were seated next to each other at a dinner party, and she seized her opportunity to ask him to take her with him on his return. She told her parents she was going to stay with a couple of girlfriends and a respectable aunt in Dieppe. Ten days later she and Romilly eloped, first to France, and then over the border to Spain.

The news of her abduction was greeted with horror at home. Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, sent a telegram to the British consul in Bilbao, instructing him to find Jessica and to send her home. Redesdale had his daughter made a ward of court. But eventually family opposition crumbled. Jessica was married in 1937 and moved to New York just before the outbreak of war.

The wounds between the siblings took years to heal. Diana had been her favourite and adored sister, but a vast political gulf grew up between them and, to a lesser extent, between Jessica and Unity. In 1943 Jessica wrote to Winston Churchill (and sent a copy to the *San Francisco Chronicle*), telling him that the release of Diana and Oswald Mosley from prison was an insult to anyone who had died fighting fascism. In the end, it was only Tom who was "on speakers", as Jessica liked to put it, with the entire complement of Redesdale's children.

Romilly was killed in the Canadian Air Force in 1941 but Jessica stayed in

America and gave birth to her first child, Constance ("Dinky"), in Washington that year. She taught herself to type and joined the Office of Price Administration. Robert Treuhaft, a clever young Jewish lawyer from the Bronx, began courting her. When Jessica was transferred to an OPA office in San Francisco, he followed her and they married.

Despite their social differences, their marriage settled into a successful Mitfordesque mould, based on shared jokes and politics, and they had a son in 1947. They joined the American Communist Party in 1943, and both continued working for the party after the war (an adventure she described in *A Fine Old Conflict*, 1977). She became an American citizen in 1944.

It has been said that the same character traits which led Unity and Diana to fascism brought Jessica to communism — that the Mitford girls were genetically predetermined to extreme politics. There were differences, though. Jessica was a hard worker. She toiled away at unglamorous tasks for the party, while her sister Diana — at least in the 1930s — was accustomed to sweep into political meetings in furs. Jessica was serious about her political commitment, but her sense of humour remained robust. She found her investigation by the House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee, for example, rather funny, and derived some social satisfaction from the fact that, instead of having to go to Washington, as was normally the case, "they came out to us", in California. But by the time of the invasion of Hungary in 1956 Jessica had had enough of the party and resigned. She is survived by her husband and son.

herself, thereafter, as a liberal. She had her first success as a writer in 1960, with *Hons and Rebels*, a very funny autobiographical book about the peculiarities of English upper-class life. Three years later she wrote *The American Way of Death*, her first piece of sustained investigative reporting, and a sort of documentary version of Evelyn Waugh's *The Loved One*. It revealed the underhand methods used by American funeral directors to persuade bereaved relatives to part with their money. After its publication, Jessica became embroiled in many thoroughly entertaining disputes with the undertakers she had criticised. A sequel, *The American Way of Birth*, followed in 1992, but it did not much to her disappointment, outrage anyone in obstetrics.

Writing became her main source of income. She regularly drove newspaper editors to distraction by her vagueness about deadlines and word-counts, but her ability to weave her own adventures into a report provided insights which others would have missed.

There was, however, a brief spell as an academic, when in 1973 she was invited to become a visiting lecturer at San José State University in California. Her term there was cut short after she refused to abide by the college rule that she must be fingerprinted (an act of rebellion which won her the support of every student on campus).

Of all her sisters, her relationship with "Debo", who had become the Duchess of Devonshire, was the closest in later years. She and her husband regularly visited Chatsworth, and Treuhaft enjoyed recounting self-deprecating tales of his imitation into upper-class life. On an early visit, when the women rose to leave the room, the men rose, too, to follow them. Treuhaft remained seated: "Dook, this is all wrong. Everything I've heard about dinners in England means the men stay now and drink port." The Duke replied gently: "We were simply escorting the ladies to the door." Port was then served.

Jessica's involvement with the civil rights struggle in America led her to make some unexpected friendships — one, for instance, with the poet Maya Angelou. It was Angelou who encouraged Jessica to most bizarrely, the beginnings of a recording career last year. Jessica had stood up to sing the old Beatles song, *Maxwell's Silver Hammer*, at a fundraising concert for a local book festival, and delivered the "Bang Bang" chorus with such alarming vigour that she was rewarded with a recording contract.

She remained, for all her years in America, a very English woman, retaining the same patrician accent and manners that had so beguiled her many suitors as a young woman. Her home in Oakland, California, seemed in her description, to be more like the village setting for an Agatha Christie detective novel: "What was pleasurable about Oakland was the personal enemies one made — the mayor, the editor of the local paper, the chief of police; they all knew one and that was fun. These were pleasurable enemies."

She is survived by her husband, her daughter and son.

Christian Adams, CMG, British Ambassador to Thailand since 1992, died while on leave in Herefordshire from a heart attack on July 10 aged 57. He was born on June 2, 1939.

CHRISTIAN ADAMS was an early convert to the doctrine that the first priority of a modern diplomatic envoy should be the promotion of his country's trading interests.

Two of his postings were actually to the Department of Trade and Industry, where, as head of "Robotics, Machine Tools and Flexible Manufacturing Systems" 1979-82, he helped to promote the mechanisation of Britain's car plants. His other tours included one at the Overseas Development Administration, where he took charge of aid projects in India and Pakistan and another as senior trade commissioner in Hong Kong. He founded the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, while British Aerospace, Rolls-Royce and GEC were among the companies which he helped to win large overseas contracts at various times.

Thailand, one of Asia's new so-called "tiger economies", provided Adams, however, with the biggest opportunity of all for his entrepreneurial energy and skills. On becoming Ambassador in Bangkok, he launched himself vigorously into the task of making British firms aware of the openings there for commerce. (He was only too aware that Britain's trading balance, in terms of visible exports, still favours Thailand.) He encouraged cultural links, including a Thai extension of Dulwich College and plans for a British university in Thailand, sponsored by Nottingham and Exeter universities. At the same time he played host to a steady stream of government ministers, including Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Adams was born at Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire and lost his father before returning to the DTI's Project Exports Policy division. He left for Thailand in 1992 and was appointed CMG in the same year. The young Adams went from King's School, Canterbury, to New College, Oxford, to read history, but graduated without knowing quite what to do next. He began by joining the estate agents Hamptons, which was owned by a cousin, but decided that he had had enough of that after only six times.

Approaching the end of his time in Bangkok, Adams had planned to take early retirement in a year's time and was already giving thought to a second career at the time that he died.

Over 6ft 3in tall, Christian Adams was known for his enthusiasm and conscientious attention to detail. A keen tennis player, his other recreations included sailing, mountain walking and Scottish dancing (one of his grandmothers was a Scot). But he was also in many ways a private person who retained his love of history above all else and was happiest at home with his family. He was a good listener who made the person to whom he was talking feel the most important individual in the world.

One of his responsibilities in Thailand was to oversee the consular care provided for British and colonial visitors who from time to time fall foul of Thailand's laws — particularly those relating to drug trafficking. Some 200 British and related nationals are currently in Thai jails and Adams was frequently in touch with their distressed families.

He is survived by his wife Pauline whom he first met while a schoolboy at King's, Canterbury, and by their three sons and a daughter.

BALASAHEB DEORAS

Balasaheb Deoras, Hindu nationalist leader, died on June 17 in Pune, India, aged 80. He was born on November 15, 1915.

WHEN the President of India invited Atal Behari Vajpayee, the leader of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), to form an administration after the general election of May this year, both politicians and political commentators were alarmed lest this should prove the first step away from Nehru's vision of a

secular, rather than a Hindu, state.

Vajpayee, however, failed to attain a majority in the Lok Sabha, mainly because of the dogged refusal of the smaller parties to support a regime boasting so many members of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). This latter was a Hindu volunteer organisation which has variously been compared with the *broadband* in South Africa or the Orange Order in Ulster. Banned on three occasions since its inception in 1924, the RSS has been at the centre of a

furious and inconclusive debate over the future of the Hindu state in India.

Balasaheb Deoras was never an active participant in these controversies but, as the supreme leader of the RSS from 1973 until 1994, he was the moving spirit behind the vigorous assertion of Hindu nationhood.

Deoras's most significant contribution to Hindu nationalism lay in transforming the RSS from an apparently cultural and "nation building" organisation into an awesome network committed to the

strengthening of Hinduism (loosely translated as Hinduness) in public life.

Its two million-strong membership, organised into 35,000 branches, daily make obeisance to the saffron Hindu flag and invoke "Mother India" in its regular drill sessions. Strongly hierarchical, the RSS eschewed the caste system, despite drawing most of its membership from the upper castes and from the merchant classes. In that respect, its former leader was certainly representative of its membership.

When the RSS was banned in February 1948, on suspicion of having been involved in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, Deoras played a key role in negotiating with the Government for the removal. It was lifted in 1949, after which Deoras rose rapidly in the RSS hierarchy. He was appointed general secretary of the RSS in 1965 and became the supreme leader on June 5, 1973, on the death of Gurji M. S. Golwalkar.

Departing from the RSS tradition of peripheral involvement in politics, Deoras's first major initiative lay in endorsing the movement led by the Gandhian socialist

Born in Nagpur in the old Central Provinces to a middle-class, professional Brahmin family, Madhukar Damatreya Deoras, popularly known as Balasaheb, matriculated from New English High School in 1931 and graduated from Mirris College, Nagpur, in 1931. Joining the RSS at the age of 11, he became a full-time organiser in 1939. This responsibility carried with it a vow of celibacy, and Deoras never married.

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offered co-operation for "nation-building" programmes. At the same time, the RSS network became the nucleus of the underground resistance to the Emergency. The experience of working with other opponents of Indira Gandhi tempered the political class's traditional hostility to the RSS. In the election of 1977, Indira Gandhi was routed and the new Janata Government of Morarji Desai — which contained numerous senior ministers with RSS backgrounds — offered an end to the ban.

The first spell with a friendly Government prompted the RSS to undertake a huge expansion programme. But this naturally fuelled internal resistance from the socialist component of the ruling party, and in 1979, the Desai Government fell after a controversy over Janata Party members holding "dual membership" with the RSS. After Indira Gandhi promptly banned the RSS and arrested Deoras along with many thousands of RSS workers. In prison Deoras pursued a dual strategy. He kept open his lines of communication with the Janata Party and even

Advani established the BJP in Bombay in 1980. The BJP fared poorly in the 1984 elections, held after the assassination of Indira Gandhi. It attributed the failure to an inability to be sufficiently "Hindu". Thereafter it adopted Hindu openly and, with the endorsement of the RSS, joined the movement for the construction of a Hindu temple in Ayodhya at the site of a Muslim shrine.

The Ayodhya movement transformed Indian politics radically. It witnessed the creation of a Hindu vote bank and the BJP's representation in Parliament rose from two in 1984 to 89 in 1989, 120 in 1991 and 160 in 1996. The RSS suffered a minor setback on December 6, 1992, when rampaging Hindus demolished the mosque in Ayodhya. The organisation was again banned and an ailing Deoras placed under house arrest. However, the ban was struck down by the courts in 1993 and a relieved Deoras stepped down from the leadership on March 11, 1994, on the ground of ill-health.

Unmarried, he leaves no direct survivors.

Jayaprakash Narayan against the "misrule" of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. It was the RSS's elaborate national network which provided the organisational muscle for the anti-Indira movement and precipitated the declaration of Emergency on June 26, 1975. Indira Gandhi promptly banned the RSS and arrested Deoras along with many thousands of RSS workers. In prison Deoras pursued a dual strategy. He kept open his lines of communication with the Janata Party and even

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANIMALS IN NEED

Teletext launches air ticket service

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

AIRLINE passengers can now bypass travel agents and book long-haul seats through their television sets under a new "interactive" booking operation unveiled this week. Detailed plans are being drawn up to extend the system to short-haul services, charter flights and package holidays.

Up to 25 million people, who have televisions equipped with Teletext, can obtain as much information about long-haul scheduled flights as most high-street travel agents, and once they have registered can automatically book seats by pressing buttons on their telephone.

Teletext, which displays advertisements on independent television networks and has an 18 per cent share of the cut-price holiday market, has signed a deal with the long-haul booking agency, Airline Network, to create "Take-Off", which, it is claimed, is the first interactive flight-booking service available anywhere in the world.

Although Airline Network only offers long-distance flights, selling almost 90,000 tickets a year, Teletext is confident that short-haul services and package holidays will also be available soon through the small screen.

The key to the operation is the use of the premium-line telephone service, the profits from which will go to Teletext to help to develop the system further. Customers who join the Airline Network loyalty scheme will be given code that can be used to tap requests into a telephone and receive details on the screen to which they can respond.

Most bookings are expected to be made during the off-peak times when the premium charge is 39p per minute compared with 49p at peak times. The average length of time needed for information on the 118 airlines, whose schedules and prices will then be displayed and a booking made, is about seven minutes.

Airline Network will, however, refund a flat rate of £4 to anyone who makes a booking through the system. Their profits are made from buying tickets in bulk at a very low rate from scheduled airlines, then selling them at a profit to passengers. Confirmation of the booking is sent by post within 24 hours and tickets between ten and 14 days before departure.

John Swindell, managing director of Airline Network, said last night: "Customers have at their fingertips a complete choice of airlines and discounted airfares to hundreds of worldwide destinations. This is a massive leap forward in travel marketing."

Teletext says that more than five million viewers "access" the travel and holiday pages each week. A spokeswoman said: "This is very much the first step for us. We expect to be able to expand once we have established how the new service is developing."

Within days of being active, the system was being used by 180 people a day. David Robinson, Airline Network's general manager, says: "This is a wonderful start and as people begin to realise that they can find what they want from their screen rather than relying on what advertisers want to show them, we are sure that it will expand rapidly."



Iceland offers clean air, impressive scenery and unique sights such as the hot springs at Arnnessysla, Kerlingarfjoll

Iceland comes in from the cold

By DAVID CHURCHILL

ICELAND has emerged as the "hottest" new short-break destination this summer with the number of British tourists in June up by 51 per cent on the same month last year. In the first six months of the year the running total was some 32 per cent ahead.

Although the numbers involved are not large — just under 9,000 Britons visited Iceland in the first half of this year — Britain is still the second largest inbound source of tourism for Iceland, after Germany.

But the sharp jump in numbers this year has taken

Iceland's fledgling tourist industry by surprise, since there has been no heavy marketing or promotional campaign.

"I think that Iceland has been 'discovered' by couples in their 30s and 40s who are looking not only for a new destination but also one which has a strong, fresh environmental image," says Johanna Larusdotter, marketing co-ordinator for Icelandicair, which operates the main scheduled services from the UK to Iceland. "We have the landscape, clear air and good

facilities that people want." Iceland's climate is also not as harsh as research shows many people believe, with weather similar to Scotland and warm air from the Gulf Stream ensuring it never gets really cold. In June this year the weather was better than in the UK.

Some 32 UK tour operators now feature holidays to Iceland, including AT Mayes Citybreaks, Cresta Holidays, Explore Worldwide, Page & Moy and Time Off. Most popular are activity breaks

which use the capital Reykjavik as a base, before heading off for jeep safaris to visit the volcanoes, waterfalls, hot springs and geysers. Horse riding and fishing tours are also popular. One problem is the shortage of top class accommodation during the busy summer months, when university halls of residence often have to be used.

Icelandair has short breaks including return flights, accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, and transfers starting from £233.

• Iceland Tourist Board: 0171-388 5599, 7550. Icelandair: 0171-388 5599.

Barbies out, culture in as Australia goes for subtlety

By TONY DAWE

THE IMAGE of Australia, portrayed by Paul Hogan, the *Crocodile Dundee* star, with his "barbies on the beach", is being buried finally with the announcement this week that the Australian Tourist Commission has awarded a worldwide account to an advertising agency with a more subtle approach.

The £20 million contract has been won by DMB&B, the New York-based agency whose London office created the television commercial being shown currently in Britain with the slogan "the sooner you go, the longer the memories".

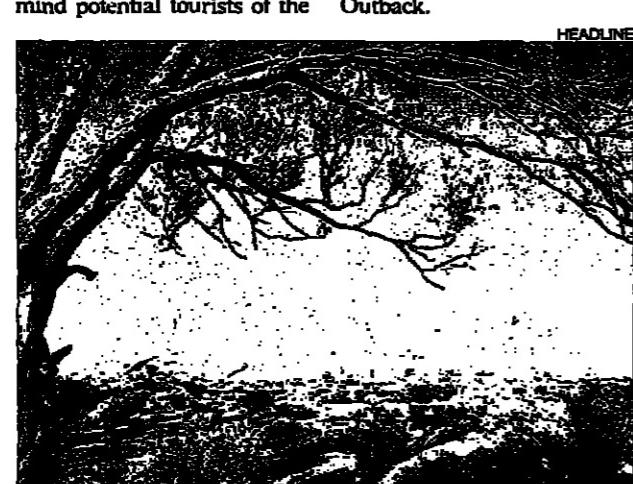
Richard Barker, the agency's European creative director, says: "The campaign is based on the unforgettability of a visit to Australia; that the experience lasts much longer than a suntan."

"In making the presentations to win the worldwide account, we identified as the foundation stones of our campaign the refreshment of mind, body and spirit and the lasting experience which come from a visit to Australia."

Andrew Richards, the tour-

ism commission's European regional director, says: "The Paul Hogan ads were marvellous in getting more recognition for Australia but we now want to present a more broad-based and multicultural image of the country."

The decision to award the worldwide account to one agency follows the launch earlier this year of "Brand Australia", designed to recruit potential tourists to the



Northern Territories most famous landmark, Ayers Rock

BA and American plan US 'shuttle'

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

AN HOURLY transatlantic "shuttle" service between London and two key American cities could be operating next April.

Under plans being scrutinised by officials on both sides of the Atlantic, British Airways and American Airlines will adjust the timetings of their services from Heathrow to New York and Chicago to offer passengers from Europe an hourly service to two of America's most important business destinations.

The aim is to attract thousands of high-spending travellers from outside Britain who fill an increasing number of seats on flights from Heathrow. But the plan provoked an immediate outcry from Virgin Atlantic, which is seeking to halt the "merger".

"It is quite ridiculous when two airlines who control all the peak time slots for transatlantic travel from the UK can operate a service like this when new operators cannot get slots," said a Virgin Atlantic spokesman. "This illustrates why this merger is not in the consumer's interests."

Under the scheme, AA and BA flights, which now take off at about the same time, would be spread throughout the day instead. Passengers could fly to Heathrow in the certain knowledge of a connecting flight with BA or AA to

America. Bookings would be made as if the two were a single airline and they would then share the profits.

A typical BA flight from Heathrow to New York (JFK), for example, now has only 47 per cent of its seats filled by passengers originating in London, with the rest coming from as far afield as Scandinavia, Africa or India.

From Gatwick the skew is even more marked with just over one in five seats on a typical flight to Dallas/Fort Worth being filled by passengers starting their journey in London.

Fifteen per cent of seats sold on BA flight 193 to Dallas on July 12, for example, were filled by passengers starting their journey in Germany. If per cent from Switzerland, Austria and Eastern Europe and 7 per cent from Britain and Eire. Connecting passengers can make the difference between profit and loss on most transatlantic services, according to BA.

Virgin's Richard Branson told the House of Commons Transport Committee that the "merger" would "simply kill competition" and inevitably lead to higher fares. BA's chairman, Sir Colin Marshall, on the other hand, insisted that standards would go up and fares would come down.

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Heritage sites gain from TV exposure

BRITISH tourists are increasingly interested in architectural, religious, maritime and cultural history, according to the English Tourist Board — thanks in part to the television series *Pride and Prejudice*, Harvey Elliott writes.

Last year an estimated 19.5 million people visited cathedrals and churches in England, 15.4 million visited private historic properties, 12 million went to parish churches, 9.6 million to government properties, 7.6 million to National Trust properties and 5.6 million to those owned by local authorities, says the ETB in its latest survey of English Heritage.

Lyme Park in Cheshire, which was used to represent Mr Darcy's house, Pemberley, in the TV adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel, had a huge 178 per cent increase in visitors last year. The picturesque property, in Disley, recorded 91,437 admissions compared with 32,852 in 1994.

Overall there was an increase of 4 per cent in the number of visitors to historic properties last year — greater than in any year since 1987. The £212 million spent was 6 per cent more than in 1994.

Fifty-eight historic properties in England each attracted more than 200,000 visitors during 1995: 31 charged admission and 27 were free. The Tower of London, attracted by far the highest number of paid admissions, up 3 per cent to 2.5 million. Westminster Abbey was the most popular free venue with 2.2 million visitors.

The sharpest increase in paying visitors was to old warships. HMS Warrior, Plymouth, attracted 49 per cent more than in the previous year, while the Mary Rose in Portsmouth saw a 20 per cent increase.

The two biggest losers were both academic centres. Christ Church College, Oxford, had 13 per cent fewer visitors during 1995 and King's College Chapel, Cambridge, was 9 per cent down on 1994.

This has included exasperating Tube strikes, 20-mile traffic jams, the collapse of a travel company and growing fears about the safety of foreign-registered jet aircraft.

My advice is to remember that all the terrible events I have mentioned make news only because they are unusual and do not happen every day.

Get on that plane with confidence, lie contently on that beach — and forget your worries and the world's madness for just a little while.

Don't let terrorism ruin your holiday

By STEVE KEENAN

WHAT an appalling month this is turning out to be for the travel business. From the horrific destruction of TWA flight 800 and the El Al bombs in Spanish holiday resorts it would appear that tourism and terror are once more intertwined.

With many countries depending on tourism for their very survival and dozens of others — including Britain — relying on the industry to improve their standard of living, it is not surprising that the events of the past few weeks have sent a wave of panic through many government tourism departments around the world.

If international terrorists want to get attention, they know that they have only to attack tourists. They are the perfect "soft" target and yet their economic benefit is enormous. Keep visitors away from a particular destination or resort and, so runs the twisted mind of international terror, the authorities will yield to their demands.

How many air passengers gripped their seats just a little more tightly this week, remembering the explosion which killed all on board the TWA jet? And how many nervous passengers who would otherwise have flown, however reluctantly, have now called off their planned journey for fear of terrorism?

Not that it is certain that the



TWA jet was brought down by a bomb. Other theories are still being studied, including the unlikely, but nonetheless faint, possibility that the jet was struck by a meteorite.

Aircraft maker Boeing, the world's airlines, and countless millions of air travellers are hoping that mechanical failure does not eventually prove to have been the cause of the 25-year-old jet crashing. With so many old jumbo jets still flying such a finding would surely bring much of the world's travel industry to its knees.

Luckily stoicism appears to have prevented all but a handful of people from abandoning their foreign travel plans this summer. The airports are still packed and there is hardly a seat to be had on charter flights. Spain's travellers are full and the world's travellers, especially Americans, seem determined to beat a path to London and the rest of Britain this year.

We could, of course, always stay at home. There have been some long spells of fine summer weather and with the rain of the last couple of days the British countryside is looking better than ever.

THE SUCCESS or failure of travel-related businesses is all about confidence, it has often been said. Yet rarely can there have been such a nerve-racking start to a summer season, both at home and abroad.

This has included exasperating Tube strikes, 20-mile traffic jams, the collapse of a travel company and growing fears about the safety of foreign-registered jet aircraft.

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Get on that plane with confidence, lie contently on that beach — and forget your worries and the world's madness for just a little while.

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ITINERARY IN BRIEF

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o The Kings, Luxor Temple and the Great Temple of Karnak. Cruise to Kom Ombo returning to Aswan with a full sightseeing programme (optional excursion by coach to Abu Simbel £75). Return by air to Gatwick.

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